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Top Three Nationalists Ahead for Presidency

SARAJEVO — The candidates of the three main Bosnian nationalist parties — Muslim, Croat and Serb — were in the lead in the race for Bosnia's three-member joint presidency, early results showed.

President Alija Izetbegovic, was comfortably leading his chief rival for the seat reserved for a Muslim, while after three municipalities had been counted the top Croat nationalist Kresimir Zubak moved into the lead with 51.2 percent of 4,470 votes counted, OSCE officials said. (AFP)

President Deplores U.S. Attempts to Sabotage His African Tour

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Monday that the U.S. attempts to sabotage his recently concluded six-nation African tour got nowhere because of the interests shown by African nations in the Islamic Revolution.

The passive reaction of the Americans to his visits to six African countries backfired and served to make his African tour more exciting and more fruitful, the president said in an interview with IRNA.

During his African tour, President Rafsanjani heading a high ranking political and economic delegation visited Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Rafsanjani said that Americans' failure to dictate their policies to African countries indicated that the policy of intimidation and bullying cannot do anything on international scene. "The failure of U.S. economic sanctions on Iran is a proof of this," he added.

President Rafsanjani said that during his visits to the African countries that are suffering from the interventions of big powers in their internal affairs, they bravely and explicitly announced their opposition to such a meddling.

On the outcome of his African tour, the president said that the African governments and nations were happy that a door has been opened to them in order to get rid of the monopoly of Western governments and "this explains why

(Contd on Pg.14)

Perry Heads for Britain After Disappointing Mideast Tour

ANKARA — U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry wrapped up visits to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf on Monday having apparently failed to drum up support for a new U.S. military strike on Iraq.

In Ankara, Foreign Minister

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran Prepared to Rout Any Covetous Expansionist Power



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, in a meeting here yesterday with the commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), considered the armed forces an essential part of the Islamic system and described their major task as protecting the country against the plots hatched by the enemies of Islam and keeping the banner of freedom and justice raised.

At the meeting, the Leader referred to the IRGC as a military body comprised of pious and dedicated personnel and pointed out that the IRGC members are

(Contd on Pg.14)

EU Widens Retaliation to U.S. Trade Measures

BRUSSELS — The European Commission has widened its proposed retaliation to recent U.S. trade legislation to cover the effects of the d'Amato Bill, which seeks to quash dealings with Iran and Libya.

A spokesman for the commission — the European Union's executive — confirmed on Sunday that the d'Amato Bill had been added to a list of measures the EU was taking to fight the Helms-Burton Act, Washington's controversial anti-Cuba laws.

The move is sure to irritate Washington officials who had hoped a high-profile campaign by their envoy Stuart Eizenstat last month had put the transatlantic trade row on the back burner until after the November U.S. presidential elections.

The commission spokesman said the d'Amato Bill was added as a "written procedure" on Friday to a list of measures being finalized for agreement by foreign ministers of the EU's 15 states.

(Contd on Pg.14)

TEHRAN TIMES

TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437
8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
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In the Name of Allah

I deliver to you the messages of my Lord, and I offer you good advice and I know from Allah what you do not know.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:62)

OPINION

Strong Economy: Bulwark Against Foreign Influence

The Governor of Iran's Central Bank (CBI), Mohsen Nourbakhsh, recently announced that Iran has already paid back $15 billion of its total $29.7 billion foreign loans and that the remainder will be paid within three years.

According to Nourbakhsh, the country's hard currency reserves have increased by $2.5 billion over the past six months. Iran's repayment of a bit over half of its debts and the increase in its foreign currency reserves may be ascribed to the foreign exchange regulations introduced by the CBI just a couple of months ago.

Nevertheless, the CBI officials should bear in mind that liberalization and globalization of economy will by no means promote the economy and further the interests of Iran, which is a developing country. As a matter of fact, being overenthusiastic about realizing the above objectives, the former CBI governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli enforced some foreign exchange regulations which had absolutely detrimental effect on the country's economy.

While Adeli was holding office, the country underwent huge and steady outflows, both legal and illegal, of foreign currency. And unfortunately, the currency was spent on luxury goods, which were imported both legally and illegally, despite the country's urgent need for medicine and a score of other essential commodities.

It is an established fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot remain committed to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution in the face of plots and conspiracies hatched by global arrogance if it is not economically strong enough. Thus, adopting reckless economic policies by some officials will definitely undermine the resistance and struggle of the stalwart Iranian people against the arrogant powers.

The rich and economically strong nations tend to Latin Americanize other parts of the world through entangling them in the evil trap of foreign debts in order to exploit their natural resources and manipulate them politically.

It is obvious that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would not lend money to any country unless it brings its economy in line with their prescription, practically devaluating its national currency, eliminating subsidies, and opening its door to foreign investors. In fact any of the above measures demanded by the IMF or the World Bank should be taken following a careful study of circumstances prevalent in that country. No doubt it is a blunder to blindly act upon the instructions ordered by the international monetary bodies without paying due attention to the factors involved in the country's economy.

The present foreign exchange regulations seem to have played a successful part in checking the outflow of foreign currency. Taking into account the necessity of adopting stable regulations, the CBI should by all means avoid taking trial-and-error measures, which will certainly wreak havoc on the country's economy.

Iraqi Refugees Appreciate Islamic Iran's Humanitarian Help

KERMANSHAH — Iraqi Kurdish refugees in the border regions of Iran's Kermanshah Province, voiced appreciation Sunday of the humanitarian help from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A number of the refugees in Tilchkuh border region of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab said that the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in the most difficult situations.

A refugee who introduced himself as Khale' from the city of Kelar, said that scores of people in northeastern Iraq owe their lives to Iran because if the Islamic Republic had not sheltered them they would have been massacred by the Baathist regime of Baghdad.

He said the western countries led by the U.S. have always been talking about human rights, but they practically extended no help to the oppressed people of Iraq.

The Iraqi Kurdish refugee commented that the mass killings of people in northern Iraq were carried out by the joint forces of the Iraqi Army and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) with the support of the U.S.

(IRNA)

Velayati Describes Turkish Visit as Fruitful



ANKARA — The Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, before departure for Tehran on Sunday, assessed his talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tansu Ciller as "positive" and "fruitful".

Velayati was in Turkey to attend the extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the port city of Izmir.

Velayati pointed out that in meeting with his Turkish counterpart views were exchanged on issues of mutual interest such as the Iran- Turkey joint campaign against terrorism.

"As two neighborly countries, Iran and Turkey are determined to further expand their cooperation in all areas particularly on the campaign against terrorism," he added.

He underlined the need to continue cooperation between the three countries of Iran, Turkey and Syria in order to adopt a common stance agaisnt the issue of terrorism.

Referring to the recent events in northern Iraq where one Kurdish faction drove out another with the backing of the Baghdad government, the Iranian foreign minister described the developments as "dangerous".

In his meeting with Erbakan, Velayati said he discussed the implementation of the agreements reached earlier between the two countries.

Iran and Turkey are determined to carry out the project to supply Iranian natural gas to Turkey by pipeline, he said, adding that an Iranian expert delegation is in Ankara to negotiate with the Turkish officials the ways to implement the project.

The agreement for supply of Iranian gas to Turkey was finalized last August during Turkish Prime Minister Erbakan's visit to Tehran.

In his meeting with the Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on Sunday, Velayati conveyed the verbal message of President Rafsanjani to him.

Velayati expressed pleasure with the outcome of the recent visit to Tehran of Prime Minister Erbakan and expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey and hoped that Iranian gas to be piped to Turkey would serve for development and progress of the deprived areas in Turkey.

Velayati and President Demirel also discussed the developments in the region in the wake of the U.S. intervention in Iraq and the growing military presence of the United States in the region.

He said, "Iraqi problem especially in the Kurdish populated areas has no military solution. We should do our best to bring about coexistence among the rival factions in northern Iraq and that any foreign intervention in Iraq especially in northern Iraq would not bring peace, instead, would further deteriorate the situation."

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized the need to protect territorial integrity of Iraq and said Iraqi borders should not be violated.

Referring to the recent accords reached during Erbakan's visit to Tehran on border security cooperation and preventing infiltration of terrorist elements from one's soil to the other side, Velayati said an Iranian delegation from the Interior Ministry will visit Turkey soon to put the

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Movahedi: Northern Iraq Events Show Anti-Human U.S. Character

TEHRAN — "Developments in northern Iraq showed the anti-human character of the U.S. and the savagery of the Iraqi regime," Deputy Speaker of Iranian Parliament Ali Movahedi Kermani said here on Sunday.

Describing the living condition of the Kurdish people of northern Iraq as miserable, he noted that their plight shocks every wakeful human conscience.

The official added that the events in northern Iraq showed how the U.S. which claims to be upholder of human rights deals with the Iraqi people.

The deputy Majlis speaker said that the events also brought to light the brutality of the Iraqi government against the defenseless Iraqi people while mass media in the world reported how Iranian people and government welcomed the refugees and provided them with relief supplies.

(IRNA)

Larijani Calls For Cooperation Among Parliaments of Asia, Pacific

BEIJING — Head of the Iranian delegation to the 96th meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Mohammad Javad Larijani here Monday stressed on joint cooperation of parliamentary groups of Asia and the Pacific to support political, cultural and social stands of the region.

Addressing the regional meeting which was held on the sidelines of the IPU meeting Monday, Larijani outlined Iran's stands and put forward his proposals to the meeting. He also called for further coordination among the regional parliamentary groups.

The Chinese parliamentary delegation welcomed proposals of the Iranian delegation and called on countries to support the Islamic Republic's stands.

Some 500 representatives from 130 countries are participating in the five-day IPU meeting which opened here Monday morning.

Human rights, rights of children and women in particular, economic development and food will be among major topics to be discussed by the participants.

Iran's proposal condemning d'Amato bill and the U.S. sanctions will also be among the eight proposals to be set forth at the IPU meeting.

On the sidelines of the IPU's session, Larijani and the President of the Cuban National Assembly Larcal Cusaca in a meeting Sunday called for adopting a common stand at international forums against Washington's extra-territorial policies.

Cusaca said that the U.S. by trying to impose its municipal laws against other countries is playing a dangerous game.

Referring to the Helms-Burton ruling against Cuba and the d'Amato plan against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he stated that such moves are vivid examples of U.S. lawlessness on international scenes and if international forums did not prevent such policies, the results would be unpleasant.

Larijani said that such moves by the U.S. are a violation of the principles of peaceful coexistence, peaceful efforts of world countries and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Larijani also held a separate meeting with the Moroccan Parliament Vice Speaker Abd ul-Vahed Radi. In the meeting the two sides discussed promotion of parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Referring to the issue of Palestine, Larijani termed it very important for the world of Islam and called for a solution to resolve the plight.

The Moroccan parliamentarian, for his part, said that his government has opposed with the d'Amato bill. He described it as a violation of nations' rights.

(IRNA)

Boroujerdi, Dostum Agree Negotiations Will Save Afghanistan

TEHRAN — Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, arrived in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif Sunday night and exchanged views on the latest political developments in Afghanistan with the leader of the National Islamic Movement General Abd ur-Rashid Dostum.

In the meeting, Boroujerdi expressed the Islamic Republic's concern about continuation of the factional conflict in Afghanistan, and said that those who are fanning the fire of fratricide are endangering regional peace and security.

He said that experience proves that war-mongering not only will not help Afghanistan resolve its existing problems but will also further complicate the present situation.

Underlining the need for negotiations between the various Afghan political groups, he said the Islamic Republic of Iran gives its supports to any peace accord which is reached at the negotiating table.

Boroujerdi pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no efforts in this regard.

Dostum thanked the relentless efforts of Iran and said that Afghanistan needs peace. "We will support any effort for peace," he said.

He agreed with Boroujerdi that war will further complicate the situation and that the only solution to the Afghan crisis was to sit at the negotiation table.

Dostum said that his movement was for a peaceful solution, and the opening of the Salang Hassan-Kabul Highway proved that his party is interested in peace.

(IRNA)

60,000 Kurds Settled in Iran, Int'l Aid Urgently Needed

TEHRAN — So far 60,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have been settled in five border camps in Iran's three provinces of Kurdestan, Kermanshah and West Azarbaijan, said a senior Interior Ministry official here Monday.

Already home to two million refugees, Iran has problems in providing the incoming refugees with the necessary supplies and facilities, Director General of Organization for Expatriates and Refugees Affairs Ahmad Hosseini told reporters.

Iran has so far distributed more than Rls.2,000 million worth of relief supplies among the Iraqi Kurdish refugees inside the Iraqi territory.

Tehran allowed the refugees to settle inside the Iranian territory following a request by the UN, he said, adding the UN should take immediate measures to dispatch relief aid to the refugees.

Food stocks set up at Iran's border provinces and the Red Crescent Society's warehouses are depleting fast. If international assistance is not received on time, Iran will face acute problems, Hosseini added.

In a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Sunday, the Interior Ministry expressed concern over the status of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

According to Hosseini, the UN has requested a $37 million donation from its members to be spent for accommodating those displaced from northern Iraq.

The first foreign relief aid sent by the physicians without frontiers arrived from Belgium on Sunday, the Interior Ministry official said.

Furthermore, teams from four German charity centers left for the region Monday. Contacts have been made with the charity organizations but so far no aid has been forthcoming.

So far 250 refugees are hospitalized in Iranian hospitals for injuries caused by explosion of land mines on their journey to Iran.

(IRNA)

New Oil, Gas Discoveries in Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A top Iranian oil official said in an interview published Monday that U.S. economic sanctions caused some problems for Iran but not enough to hinder the development of its energy sector.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini, a senior executive at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), also disclosed that explorations in the past year have yielded 204 million barrel of crude oil and 283 billion cubic meters (10 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas.

Hosseini, director of the NIOC's exploration department, spoke in an interview here with the authoritative weekly oil newsletter, *Middle East Economic Survey*.

He said the new oil and gas discoveries were "in line with the targets" of Iran's Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan launched in 1995.

Iran, the official said, had envisaged the discovery of 1.2 billion barrels of oil and between 708 billion and 1.416 trillion cubic meters (25 trillion and 50 trillion cubic feet) of gas by the year 2000.

Asked about U.S. sanctions, first imposed in 1995 and tightened earlier this year, Hosseini said: "we feel comfortable living with the sanctions, although they cause minor problems."

He did not elaborate on the problems, but his remark contrasted with earlier statements by Iranian officials denying the sanctions would have any impact on their economy.

U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a new law in August, allowing Washington to punish foreign companies that invest more than 40 million dollars in the energy sectors in Iran and Libya.

Earlier sanctions imposed in 1995 banned American firms from dealing with Iran.

Hosseini said that U.S. companies, "which have become political pawns in the hands of their government, will suffer most of these sanctions."

European governments, he said, "have started to think about taking measures aimed at opposing the U.S. sanctions."

These realities, he told MEES, would eventually undermine U.S. efforts to stifle Iran's economy.

Winners of the Second Young Adults' Avecina Festival to Be Introduced Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The ceremony celebrating the Second Young Adults' Avecina Festival will be held in the second half of the current Iranian year (beginning March 21), during which the selected talented participants will be granted awards.

The festival aims to identify talented young people for bringing up committed and capable researchers possessing scientific and cultural features desired for a long-term development program for human resources.

The festival is sponsored by the Avecina Innovators Center affiliated to the Institute for Talented Young Adults under the high supervision of Iran Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

During the festival students aged between 15-24 will compete with each other in different manufacturing and service fields of applied scientific accomplishments, theoretical scientific achievements; and the basic, technical, engineering, medical sciences and humanities.

The first corresponding festival was held last year with presentation of eight innovative projects, four of which were accredited by Iran Scientific and Industrial Research Organizations.



Avecina Innovators Center

Over 600 children of workers in the units covered by the Expansion and Innovation Industries Organization participated at a matriculation held by the festival; 21 of the participants were selected as the honored ones.

This year some 8200 projects have been submitted to the festival secretariat and over 2000 have applied for the festival's examination; those obtaining the highest score will be granted scholarship.

Russia's Annual Inflation to Remain Below 25%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Russia's annual inflation rate for consumer goods will not exceed 25 percent, a 10-fold decrease from 1995, Economics Minister Yevgeny Yasin told a press conference yesterday.

Yasin said the August decrease in consumer prices, the first ever since the country embarked on the road of economic reforms, shows that Russia, on the whole, has fulfilled its objective of financial stabilization, an IRNA-ITAR-TASS dispatch reported.

The minister noted however, that a dear price was paid for this success. A lower inflation rate became possible after the government adopted a tough monetary policy and kept down prices in the natural monopoly sectors, he said.

Industrial production slumped 5 percent compared with the previous year. Producers in the consumer goods, timber, wood-working and wood pulp and paper sectors were hit worst by recession, Yasin said.

Industrialized States Phased Out CFCS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - All industrial countries have phased out production and consumption of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCS) and many other chemicals since the beginimg of this year, reported the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi.

In a press release, the Nnited Nations Information Center here further quoted the UNEP that the dangers posed by the depletion of the ozone layer continue, since in some developing countries rapid economic growth has been accompanied by a simultaneous increase in the consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS).

Some 75 percent of the world's population in the developing world and in countries with economies in transition have yet to begin reducing their ods consumption as of today, the second international day for preservaton of ozone layer.

Some 25 percent have nearly completed the phase-out of ods as called for in the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, said the press release adding that 157 countries have ratified the protocol.

According to the UNEP, "industrialized countries will phase out methyl bromide by the year 2010 and developing countries have agreed to freeze it by 2002 at average 1995-98 levels."

Steel Mill to Be Set Up in Bardsir

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Kerman Steel Mill is to be set up in Bardsir, Kerman province in three phases, said Governor General of the province Murteza Bank, adding that the mill will consist of three different units, IRNA reported.

Addressing a session of the board of directors of the mill Saturday, Bank said that the mill's rolling unit with annual production capacity of 150,000 tons is to be set up at cost of Rls.6.772 billion.

Meanwhile, the ingot unit of the mill with the annual capacity of one million tons will cost $300 million, he added.

Bank however did not give any details on the required credit for the melting and moulding units of the mill.

Iran Repays Its Outstanding Payments Favorably

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank, Mohsen Nourbaksh said that Iran has been successful in repaying its outstanding payments in due time.

Iran has already paid some $15 billion of its $29.7 billion foreign debts with the remaining portion being scheduled to be paid by the next two years.

Talking to Farsi-Language Monthly *Tazehaye Eqtesad* the governor said that Iran's hard currency reserves have increased by nearly $2.5 billion within the past two years.

Nourbakhsh further said that by lessening of outstanding payments from one side and increase of the country's hard currency from the other, Iran is now in a stronger economic position.



Nourbakhsh

"The question of Iran's outstanding payments is a closed file in the chain of the central bank's activities", Nourbakhsh added.

Five New Power Plants to Be Set Up 1990

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Works on a project for construction of Karun-4 and Getwand Olia power plants near the karun River and of Hini Mini, Sazbon and Pa-Alam near the Karkheh River are to be launched this year and next year. Once operational, the power plants will totally generate 4,000 megawatts of electricity.

Deputy Energy Minister for Power Affairs and Managing Director of TAVANIR, the Power Generation and Distribution Company, Mohammad Malaki said here Sunday that Rls.7,000 billion had been allocated for the purpose.

Malaki said that Karun-2 power plant is also to be established in the course of the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-1999).

Iran's power output is expected to surmount to 8,000 megawatts by the end of the second plan.

Malaki said that operations are to be launched for construction of four hydroelectric and thermal power plants by the year end.

There are nine thermal and four hydroelectric power plants throughout the country presently.

He said that executive work had been launched in the course of the First Five-Year Plan (1981-1994) on extension of Karun-1 power plant with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts, karun-3 with a capacity of 2,000 megawatts, the second phase of Godarlandar hydroelectric power plant with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts and on Karkheh power plant with a capacity of 400 megawatts with a total investment of Rls.5,100 billion according to current prices.

Velayati Terms Outcome of ECO Session "Big Success"

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here yesterday termed the outcome of the extraordinary session of foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as a big stride towards emergence of an independent organization.

Velayati, back from the Turkish port-city of Izmir where the ECO session was held, told IRNA that the foreign ministers of the ten member states endorsed changes to be carried out for two years from the beginning of the year 1997.

He said that over the past years various commissions and institutes of ECO had been persuing activities related to regional cooperation in such fields as aviation, banking and insurance, but the decisions taken at Izmir stipulate that the said ograns should function with greater authority and power under the ECO at its headquarters.

After two years ECO would be transformed into a fully independent organization like other world organizations and that Tehran will be the site of its permanent headquarters, he added.

ECO, founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, was later expanded to the included Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrghizistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The Iranian foreign minister referred to Erbakan's visit to Iran last month and the new developments in the two countries' economic relations, pointed out that Iran-Turkey trade exchanges would total at least $2.5 billions annually in light of the cooperation accords reached between Tehran and Ankara.

He added that the executive work for the gas pipeline project for supply of Iranian gas to Turkey would start during the forthcoming visit to Ankara of Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

Referring to American meddlings in the internal affairs of Iraq, Velayati said that during talks with senior Turkish officials, he expressed the opposition of Islamic Iran to interference of any other country in Iraq, and stressed that Iraqi problems should be resolved by the Iraqi people themselves.

"Iraqi Kurds should solve their problems at the negotiating table," he said, adding that the current infighting among the Iraqi Kurds should not serve as a pretext for the presence of hegemonist powers in the region.

Answering a question on Iran-Turkey border issues, Velayati said that Turkish concerns about security problems in its southeast parts are understandable and that Turkish security problems would be resolved through a realistic view and cooperation by other regional states.

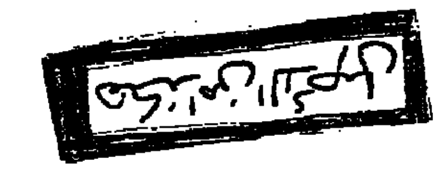
"During talks with Turkish officials it was decided that Turkish security problems should be reviewed and resolved through cooperation and mutual understanding and without being influenced by the insinuations of the enemies," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister made it clear that the false reports and baseless accusations will not help Turkey resolve its security problems and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always proved that it is keen to build trust and friendship with its neighbors.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

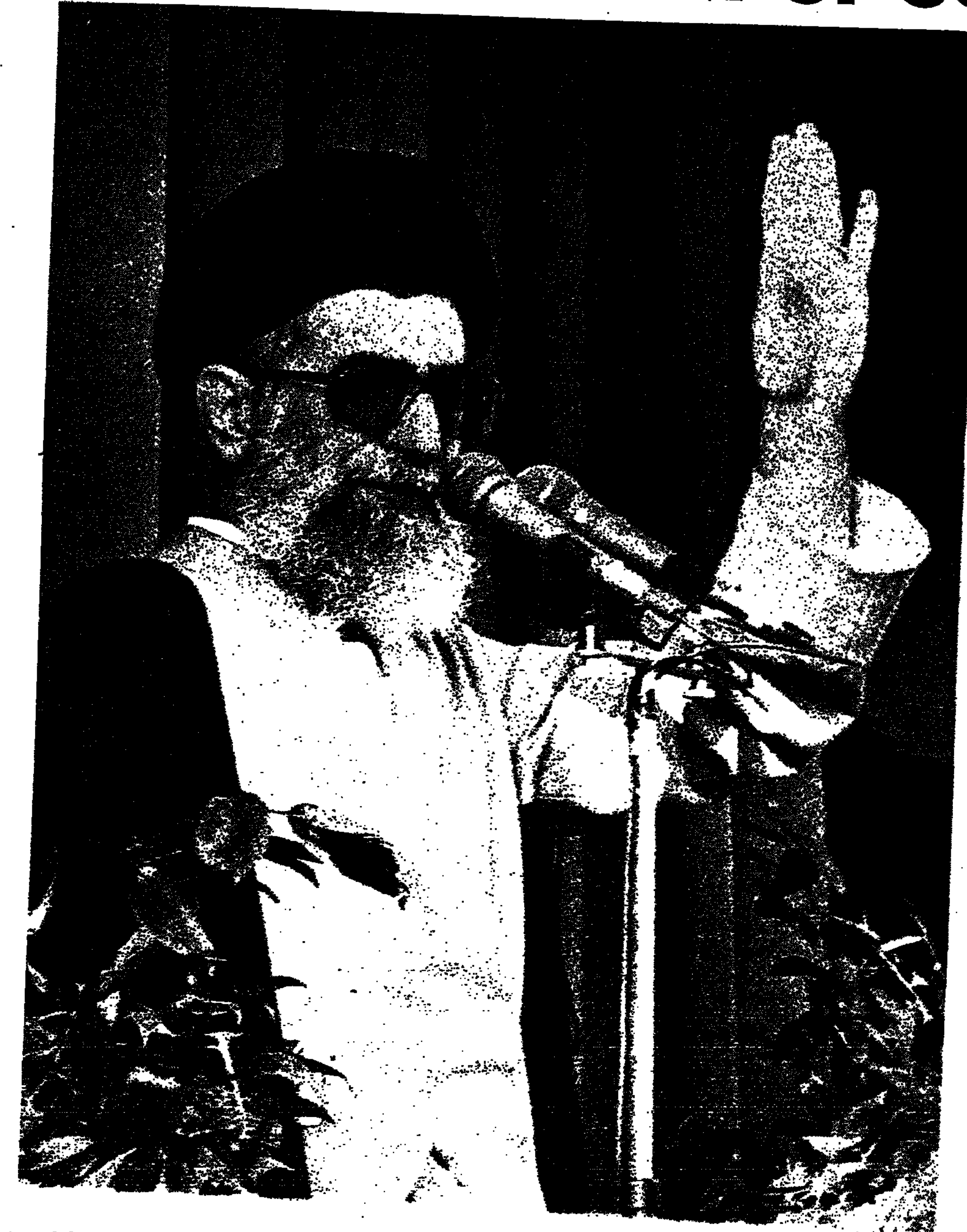
The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday, September 16, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,392	1,400	2,390	2,402
Austria	schilling	164	165	282	283
Belgium	(100)francs	5,607	5,639	9,626	9,674
Canada	dollar	1,275	1,283	2,189	2,200
Denmark	krone	299	301	514	517
France	franc	339	341	581	584
Germany	mark	1,155	1,162	1,984	1,994
Holland	guilder	1,032	1,038	1,771	1,780
Italy	(100)liras	114	115	196	197
Japan	(100)yen	1,586	1,595	2,722	2,736
Sweden	krone	261	263	449	451
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,717	2,733	4,665	4,688
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015





WHAT IS DEAREST FOR THE PEOPLE OF WEST AZARBAIJAN BUT THEIR LIVES TO SACRIFICE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR GREAT LEADER, WHOM THEY CALL THE TRUE SERVANT OF GOD.



YOUR ARRIVAL IS EXTREMELY WELCOME.

W. AZARBAIJAN GENERAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Photo: Kaveh Ahmadi

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Sports Sum

TEHRAN TIMES

Sports Summary

ATHLETICS

TOKYO: Carl Lewis will be among 15 Olympic champions taking part in a star-studded finale to the athletics season here Monday.

The 35-year-old American will be taking part in his last 100m race in Japan, and it will be on the National Stadium track where he broke the world record at the 1991 world championships with a run of 9.86sec.

LONDON: Police reported that two people died in the great north run on Sunday.

The male runners were among more than 30,000 people taking part in the famous half-marathon from Newcastle to South Shields in northeast England.

Kenyan Benson Masya won the men's race for the fourth time, 12 seconds clear of Great Britain's Paul Evans with 1:01.43.

The women's race was won for the third time by 32 year-old Liz McColgan.

FOOTBALL

MILAN: Croatian striker Alen Boksic, who scuppered Manchester United in midweek, guided Juventus to victory again on Sunday as the European Cup holder beat Cagliari 2-1.

AC Milan suffered its second defeat in four days as the Italian champion followed up its European Cup humiliation by crashing 2-1 at Sampdoria.

Milan, beaten 3-2 by FC Porto in the Champions League on Wednesday, took the lead through George Weah in Genoa, but Sampdoria won through with goals from Juan Sebastian Veron and Mancini. Roma went top, beating Vicenza 2-0.

LONDON: Liverpool saluted a new hero in Czech star Patrik Berger after he scored twice in a 3-0 win at Leicester which took the Merseysiders to the top of the premiership.

Berger, signed from Borussia Dortmund for 3.25 million dollars after starring for the Czech Republic during Euro 96, replaced struggling Stan Collymore at half time and scored two superb goals to demoralize its newly promoted opponent. Aston Villa meanwhile held Chelsea to a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge.

LONDON: Hearts are likely to be subjected to a special inquiry by the Scottish Football Association after four players were sent off in its 3-0 defeat by Rangers on Saturday.

Red-carded quartet Pasquale Bruno, David Weir, Neil Pointon and Paul Ritchie will be automatically suspended for Tuesday's league cup quarterfinal against Celtic at Tynecastle.

MILAN: Perugia's coach Giovanni Galeone risks the sack this week after a farcical row with his club president ... over a dog.

Tension between Galeone and Luciano Gaucci exploded last week with a torrent of barely printable abuse, and all because of a playful Siberian husky by the name of Ziegler.

The trouble began when Galeone appeared at a press conference with Ziegler in tow. The dog first jumped onto the table and then began licking the microphones before later settling down at his master's feet.

LONDON: The Football Association said they will support English premiership club Manchester United if it seeks action from UEFA following complaints by fans who allege they were subjected to violent attacks in Turin last week.

United's independent Supporters' Association intends to compile a dossier of the experiences of fans who watched Juventus win 1-0 in the Champions' League.

RUGBY UNION

LONDON: Ex-England captain Will Carling criticized his international colleagues on Sunday for supporting a breakaway from Twickenham by the top English clubs.

The decision of the country's top stars to side with the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC), has deeply concerned Carling, who quit the captaincy in March this year after England had won the five nations.

MOTORCYCLING

MONTMELO: Australian Michael Doohan rode to his third successive 500cc world championship after finishing second on his Honda behind Spaniard Carlos Checa in the Catalonia Grand Prix.

Doohan's teammate Spaniard Alex Criville came in third place after swapping positions with the Australian three times on the last lap.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SYDNEY: St. George crushed Sydney City with six tries to maintain its push for the Australian Rugby League Championship in an elimination semifinal here Sunday.

The Dragons, steeped in tradition with 15 titles, 11 of them in succession in the 1950 and 1960s, rubbed out the Roosters 36-16 to set up a major semifinal with North Sydney next Saturday.

(AFP)



LEICESTER, United Kingdom (September 15): Patrick Berger gets his pass away for Liverpool despite the close attention of Neil Lennon during British premiership encounter against Leicester City at Filbert Street. Liverpool won 3-0.

(AFP PHOTO)

Milan Crashes Again and Atletico Knows the Feeling

PARIS — AC Milan suffered its second defeat in four days on Sunday as the Italian champion following up its European Cup humiliation by crashing 2-1 at Sampdoria.

Milan, beaten 3-2 by FC Porto in the Champions League on Wednesday, dominated the first half, and George Weah opened the scoring with a powerful shot after 13 minutes in Genoa.

But Argentina's Juan Sebastian Veron leveled just before the break from a free kick and Mancini headed in a cross from Frenchman Christian Karembeu on 77 minute to seal the points.

Underpressure coach Oscar Tabarez, again without veteran skipper and defender Franco Baresi, could only look on in despair as Milan searched vainly for an equalizer.

Milan's archrival Juventus earlier defeated Cagliari 2-1 with Croatian striker Alen Boksic, who scuppered Manchester United in midweek, again on target. Boksic, bought from Lazio, needed only nine minutes to put Juventus in front following Alessandro del Piero's pass.

Ciro Ferrara added the second, volleying home Del Piero's long free kick.

As Roma went top of the Serie A on goal difference after beating Vicenza 2-0 with goals from Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca and Argentine Abel Balbo.

Right behind Roma on six points from two matches are newcomers Bologna and Roy Hodgson's Inter Milan.

Bologna won 2-0 in Verona while Inter beat Perugia by the only goal.

Elsewhere, Gabriel Batistuta rescued a point for Fiorentina at Atlanta in a 2-2 draw, while Parma was held 0-0 at Piacenza.

Lazio is meanwhile pointless after a 1-0 defeat at home to Udinese.

In Spain, none of the top four won on a day when champion Atletico Madrid crashed 2-0 at home to Deportivo la Coruna, leaving Bobby Robson's Barcelona to take top spot on goal difference following a 1-1 draw at closest challenger Santander.

Brazilian youngster Ronaldo blasted the Catalan Club ahead with his first league goal for Barca only for Santander's Uruguayan winger Fernando Correa to snatch the equalizer after the break.

The third side on seven points from three games, Real Sociedad, could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to Sporting Gijon.

But the shock of the day came in Madrid, where champion Atletico crashed to its second defeat, 2-0 at home to Deportivo la Coruna. Rivaldo and Frenchman Corentin Martins did the damage with second half goals.

Seville upset the form book, winning in Tenerife 2-0 to gain its first points — and goals — of the season against a side which had won its first two games and kept two clean sheets. Salva scored a brace for the visitors.

With the leading quartet all off-color, a win for Betis or Real Madrid, who play Monday night, will take them top.

In Germany, the top three all drew, leaving Bayern Munich, which drew at Schalke, a point ahead of VFB Stuttgart and Borussia Dortmund, which parted 1-1 at Dortmund.

Bayern, beaten 3-0 by Valencia in the UEFA Cup in midweek, needed a 70th minute equalizer from Thomas Strunz after striker Martin Max had given Schalke a 36th minute lead.

In Dortmund, Giovane Elber, Stuttgart's Brazilian striker, opened the scoring in the 32nd minute but Dortmund's Heiko Herrlich saved a point.

Elsewhere, Munich 1860 thrashed struggling Freiburg 4-0, Bulgarian international midfielder Daniel Boromirow scoring twice.

Cologne, lying fifth, won 4-0 against Borussia Moenchengladbach, midweek victor over Arsenal in the UEFA Cup, with Romanian duo Dorinel Munteanu and Ion Vladoiu scoring one apiece.

(AFP)

Nine-Man Hamburg Beats St. Pauli 3-0

BONN — Hamburg beat St. Pauli 3-0 in the German first division on Sunday despite having two men sent off.

Defender Stefan Schnoor was dismissed in the fourth minute for a serious foul on Brazilian Emerson and midfielder Sven Kmetsch followed him on the hour for a second bookable offense.

In between, Karsten Baeron took advantage of a defensive error by Tore Pedersen to give Hamburg a first-half lead and Austrian international Markus Schopp added a second two minutes after the break.

Undaunted by the second dismissal, nine-man Hamburg wrapped up the three points with a goal from substitute striker Andre Breitenreiter, who scored with his first touch in the last minute of the match. (Reuter)

Feyenoord Goes Top as PSV Loses for First Times

AMSTERDAM — Feyenoord Rotterdam beat Twente Enschede 1-0 to top the Dutch first division on Sunday as previous leader PSV Eindhoven lost for the first time this season — 2-1 at Graafschap Doetinchem.

Midfielder Jean Paul van Gastel scored the vital goal for Feyenoord, fooling Twente goalkeeper Sander Boschker with a shot from a tight angle which found the net at the near post.

Before the match, riot police arrested eight fans during confrontations between followers of Feyenoord and those of nearby German side Schalke who had crossed the border looking for trouble.

In Doetinchem, former Grasshopper Zurich strikers Ali Ibrahim and Eric Vicaal scored a goal each for Graafschap to terminate PSV's 100 percent record.

PSV, which appeared jaded after its midweek trip to Georgia for a Cup Winners' Cup clash, badly missed strikers Rene Eykelkamp and Luc Nilis, both sidelined through injury.

They managed to pull a goal back through Brazilian striker Marcelo but, despite increasing pressure, failed to find an equalizer.

Feyenoord now heads the table on 16 points from PSV on 15.

Amsterdam Ajax continued its minirevival by beating Sparta Rotterdam 2-0 thanks to goals from Tijjani Babangida and Finnish striker Jari Litmanen.

(Reuter)

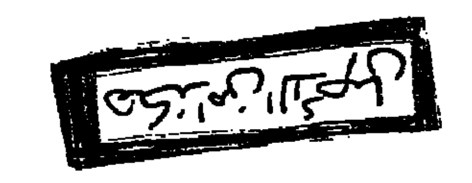
English Soccer Standings

LONDON — Standings in the English soccer league after Sunday's games:

Premier League

Team	gp	w	d	l	gf	ga	pts
Liverpool	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Manchester United	6	3	3	0	16	6	12
Chelsea	6	3	3	0	9	4	12
Sheffield Wednesday	5	4	0	1	8	5	12
Newcastle	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Middlesbrough	6	3	2	1	14	7	11
Aston Villa	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Wimbledon	6	3	0	3	7	6	9
Derby	6	2	3	1	8	8	9
Arsenal	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Tottenham	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
Leeds	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
Sunderland	6	1	3	2	5	4	6
Nottingham Forest	6	1	3	2	8	11	6
Everton	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Leicester	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
West Ham	6	1	2	3	4	10	5
Coventry	6	1	1	4	3	12	4
Southampton	6	0	2	4	5	9	2
Blackburn	6	0	1	5	4	10	1
Division One							
Bolton	7	5	1	1	17	9	16
Barnsley	6	5	0	1	14	6	15
Wolverhampton	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Norwich	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
Tranmere	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
Queens Park Rangers	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Stoke	7	3	2	2	10	12	11
Huddersfield	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Crystal Palace	7	2	4	1	9	6	10
Swindon	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Portsmouth	7	3	1	3	6	8	10
Ipswich	7	2	3	2	13	11	9
Manchester City	7	3	0	4	8	9	9
West Brom	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Birmingham	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Sheffield United	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Oxford United	7	2	1	4	9	8	7
Reading	7	2	1	4	9	14	7
Port Vale	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
Charlton	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
Bradford	7	2	0	5	4	10	6
Grimsby	7	1	2	4	8	16	5
Southend	7	1	2	4	7	14	5
Oldham	7	0	2	5	7	14	2

(AP)



Pro-Syrian Candidates Sweep Last Round of Lebanon's Elections

BEIRUT — Pro-Syrian candidates almost made a clean sweep of Lebanon's last round of parliamentary elections in the eastern Bekaa Valley, according to unofficial results on Monday.

The parliamentary bloc of the Shia Muslim group Hezbollah lost three seats overall in the five rounds of region-by-region polling.

The Interior Ministry said voter turnout reached 52 percent in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley on Sunday, after a last-hour rush at polling stations.

Twenty-two out of the 23 candidates on a Damascus-imposed joint list between the pro-Syrian Amal, a Shia group, and Hezbollah won seats in the Bekaa, the unofficial results showed.

The two Amal candidates, Housing Minister Mahmoud Abou Hamdan, with 104,065 votes, and Defense Minister Mohsen Dalloul, with 97,450, ranked first and second.

The only non-coalition member to win at the polls, completing Lebanon's 128-member Parliament, was Ismail Sukkariyeh, who is close to Prime Minister Rafic Hariri but also a pro-Syrian figure.

Barzani: Kurdistan Seeks Negotiations With Baghdad

DUBAI — The status of Iraqi Kurdistan should be resolved through negotiations with Baghdad, the leader of the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said in an interview published Monday.

"We believe that Kurdistan is part of Iraq and we realize the importance, indeed the need to preserve the territorial sovereignty of Iraq," KDP chief Massud Barzani told the Arab newspaper Al Hayat.

"The most natural way to resolve the Kurdish question is still through negotiations ... with the central government," he said, " on the basis of democracy in Iraq, pluralism, free elections and federalism."

Barzani indicated, however, that a return of Iraqi government control over the Kurdish-dominated areas of northern Iraq was not likely in the short-term.

Northern Iraq had been under the protection of allied forces since the 1991 Persian Gulf war, but Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein managed to regain a foothold in the region in a joint offensive with KDP forces on August 31 on the main city of Arbil.

The Iraqi-backed KDP went on to rout forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) from most of northern Iraq, sending tens of thousands of Kurds fleeing for the Iraqi borders with Iran and Turkey.

The United States launched two waves of Cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq on September 3 and 4 to punish Iraq for the military intervention into the Kurdish "safe haven" in northern Iraq.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PERRY...

Tansu Ciller ruled out letting the United States use the Incirlik air base in southern Turkey for a possible U.S. military strike against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"There has been no U.S. request for the use (of Incirlik) ... indeed we cannot respond positively to such a request regarding Incirlik," Ciller told reporters after a meeting with the Pentagon chief.

"This would not be a correct approach for our country's current interests."

Perry arrived in Ankara on Monday after visits to Saudi Arabia — which so far has also ruled out allowing U.S. warplanes based in the kingdom to carry out strikes on Iraq — Kuwait and Bahrain.

Besides Ciller, Perry also met President Suleyman Demirel, Defense Minister Turhan Tayan and the chief of the general staff, General Ismail Hakki Karaday, before leaving Ankara for London, where he was scheduled to hold talks with his French and British counterparts Michael Portillo and Charles Millon.

Bahrain, headquarters for the U.S. fifth fleet, has accepted the deployment of 23 U.S. F-16 fighters while Kuwait has provided facilities for eight F117 stealth bombers and 18 F-16s.

But the Kuwaitis have appeared reluctant to accept an additional 3,000 to 5,000 U.S. troops, and a Riyadh-based diplomat said Monday it may be because of Saudi pressure.

Perry met with Saudi King Fahd on Sunday but no details of the talks were released.

Prince Sultan, the Saudi defense minister, said earlier however that he did not think the United States planned another military strike against Iraq and welcomed recent statements from Baghdad aimed at defusing tensions.

Despite a Pentagon announcement last week that Kuwait had agreed to accept additional U.S. troops as part of a show of force against Iraq, the troops have yet to depart.

Kuwait has accepted an additional deployment of troops on its territory as part of the U.S. military build-up in the Persian Ggulf, a U.S. Embassy spokesman here said Monday.

"We have been officially notified of the approval by Kuwait of the deployment of additional U.S. troops to Kuwait," the spokesman said.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

the Americans did not want to see us there."

The Americans did something immature and it was beneath the U.S. administration to embark on such cheap and primitive methods as to hamper this tour, the president noted.

Rafsanjani said that his tour was of great significance because it caused him and his entourage to become more familiar with Africa and study ways of assisting African countries in making optimal use of their resources.

Moreover, he said, the Iranian delegation managed to foil the West's hostile propaganda by making African states familiar with Iran's achievements in areas of reconstruction and development.

The president said the African countries visited by him were willing to follow the patterns laid by Iran in the field of development without relying on the outside world and solely using their own domestic resources.

Formerly, the Islamic Revolution of Iran was a model for other revolutions across the globe and today there are people around the world advocating the development patterns pursued by Iran, the president said.

The Iranian president said that his Ugandan counterpart was also in the belief that the development patterns set by Iran were more effective than other patterns.

He added that South African leaders found Iran's experiences in eradicating deprivation, administering social justice and maintaining security as very interesting, and called on Iran to put its experiences at their disposal.

The president said that he and his accompanying delegation signed 30 cooperation agreements with the African states in technical, economic and cultural areas.

Since such contracts would make it possible for Iran to be present in east Africa, a council on Africa would be formed under his chairmanship to follow up implementation of the said agreements, President Rafsanjani said.

Among other results of his visits to the African states, President Rafsanjani made a mention of Iran's mediation between Sudan and Uganda to solve their disputes and normalize their relations.

He added that Iran would continue its mediation efforts in other trouble spots of the African continent.

Furthermore, Iran is to set up branches of Islamic Azad university in several African states in order to offer technical and educational courses, in addition to establishing vocational centers for training of skilled manpower, the president concluded.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

VELAYATI...

accords into practice.

Velayati said certain elements who oppose Iran-Turkey friendship fabricate unfounded allegations to deteriorate the growing relations between the two countries, whereas, escalation of such allegations would not solve Turkish security problems and the solution to overcome the problem depends on developing sincerely regional ooperation.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran has showed its good will to help remove the security problem in southeastern Turkey which was timely appreciated by the Turkish officials.

President Demirel extended his warm greetings to President Rafsanjani and thanked for his verbal message.

Demirel said with signing of the Izmir Convention on Saturday, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has entered into a new stage and all the ECO member states should work to further activate the organization.

President Demirel said bilateral relations have enjoyed a growing process and the agreements reached between the two countries especially the gas deal is very pleasing.

Velayati and President Demirel stressed the need for exchange of views between Iran and Turkey on various regional and international issues on northern Iraq.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

EU...

A written procedure is a decision agreed unanimously by the 20 European commissioners without need for debate or discussion.

Originally, the EU retaliatory measures concerned only the Helms-Burton Act — an amalgamation of decades of U.S. anti-Cuba policy.

But EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan is believed to have persuaded fellow commissioners that the d'Amato Bill — which became law in July — was even more harmful to European trade interests.

The European Union, which relies on Iran and Libya for 20 percent of its oil imports, is determined to fight what it considers to be increasing extra-territorial laws emanating from Washington.

The d'Amato Bill differs from the Helms-Burton Act by applying state sanctions to foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya.

The Cuba laws, among other things, allow naturalized Americans to sue foreign companies or individuals deemed to have benefitted from investments in property confiscated from them by the Cuban government since the communist revolution of 1959.

In July EU foreign ministers gave the commission a mandate to pursue four areas of retaliation. These would forbid EU nationals or companies from abiding by U.S. court rulings allow companies or individuals to counter sue bar U.S. citizens involved in litigation from the EU and compile a "watchlist" of U.S. companies threatening lawsuits.

(RUETER)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

reminiscent of the glorious period of sacred defense. The grand ayatollah further said that, under the Islamic system, the armed forces are not the instrument of achieving mere power, but they seek to achieve proximity to the Almighty God through establishing justice and equity.

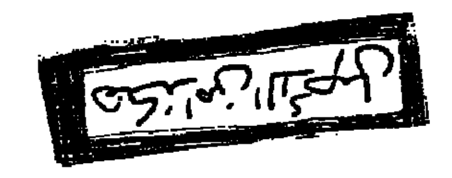
The Leader also hinted at the relations among countries in the modern age and stressed that the global powers only seek to serve their own interests through establishing ties with other countries. "The move taken by the U.S. to deploy forces in the Persian Gulf region on the pretext of protecting its interests and its interference in Iraq's internal affairs only reflect the rule of jungle and following a barbaric policy by the White House," the grand ayatollah noted.

Elaborating on the objectives of the global arrogance in its confrontation with the justice-seeking policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces reiterated that the enemies of Islam are out to force the Islamic country to forgo its justice-seeking objectives. "The enemies are trying to show that the efforts made by the Iranian Muslim nation to disseminate Islamic values, justice and equity have all been in vain. Thus, the Iranian officials should try to foil the enemies in their evil schemes," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The grand ayatollah went on to point at the strong impact of the Islamic Revolution on other nations. He underlined the fact that if, today, other nations in the world dare to withstand the arrogant powers, that is because the Iranian people have demonstrated that they are prepared to rout any covetous expansionist power.

Concerning the spiritual influence of the Islamic Revolution over other nations, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the warm welcome accorded in other countries to the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the Iranian president, was in fact tantamount to expressing enthusiasm for the Islamic Revolution and showing respect for the banner of justice and equity raised by the late leader of Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution underscored that Iran not only furthers its own interests, but it also seeks to help underprivileged nations overcome backwardness and withstand oppression and exploitation by the arrogant powers.



Owner of Animal Park Mauled by Tigress, Dies

AGEN, France – The owner of a private zoo died after being severely mauled by a tigress near Marmande, in southwest France, relatives said Monday.

Christian Godon, 48, was killed on Sunday when he entered a tiger cage to calm down agitated animals at his property, La Borderie, which was not open to the public.

A tigress, which Godon knew well, leapt at his leg and then his throat.

The animal was put down. *(AFP)*

TEHRAN TIMES

international news

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SEPTEMBER 17, 1996

Brazil Sees Political Foul Play Behind Goat's Death

BRASILIA – Police on Sunday were investigating the suspicious death of a goat standing for mayor in a northeastern Brazilian town.

Frederico the goat had been leading in opinion surveys in Pilar, since his owner Petrucio Maia launched the animal on the campaign trail as a protest candidate in October's municipal elections.

Maia told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper he thought his goat had been poisoned by a political rival.

"He had a lot of foam in his mouth," he said. *(Reuter)*

Sinn Fein Denies IRA "Truce" Conference Report

BELFAST — Irish Republican officials on Sunday dismissed reports that a conference planned for next month would be a front for a landmark convention at which IRA guerrilla fighters could agree to a new cease-fire.

British media raised hopes at the weekend the Irish Republican Army might be moving towards a new truce in its guerrilla war to end British rule in Northern Ireland by holding a historic "army convention", its first for ten years.

They said a conference on the state of the Irish language to be sponsored by the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, could provide a venue for IRA guerrillas to decide the future of the IRA's bombing campaign.

But a Sinn Fein spokesman told Reuters: "We can reject any claim that this year's Slogadh (conference) is anything other than what it is - an Irish language conference."

"It is not a cover for the IRA. It is a public event open to Irish language activists and the media."

London's *Sunday Times* reported that British security sources felt that a rare IRA convention might be held soon to decide the future of a bombing campaign that is blocking Sinn Fein from a seat in multi-party peace talks.

(Reuter)

Flash Floods Kill Dozens South of Khartoum

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Surging waters swept through shantytowns near the Sudanese capital, killing dozens of people and leaving thousands homeless, Sudanese television reported Monday.

They were the latest floods to devastate the poor region around Khartoum, where the White Nile and Blue Nile converge.

State-owned television broadcast footage of flood waters inundating shantytowns in the southern suburb of Mayo. Houses built of mud had been swept away, the television reported.

There were no specific figures on the dead and homeless, but the television said "dozens of people" had died.

Majzoub Khalifa, Sudan's state minister for social planning, visited the area and promised prompt government action.

"We have found water completely surrounding a number of areas and a great many houses have collapsed," he was quoted as saying on television, which showed bulldozers removing tons of mud as part of a plan to drain the water from the hardest-hit areas.

(AP)

Megawati Prevented From Running in Next Election

JAKARTA — Opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri will not be able to run in Indonesia's 1997 general elections after the official election body refused to accept her candidacy list here Monday.

An official from the General Election Institute, Suyadi refused to accept the parliamentary candidates' list, which included her name and was presented by Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) officials loyal to Megawati.

According to the law, only candidates nominated by one of Indonesia's three official parties are allowed to take part in the general elections.

Megawati's name was not in the list submitted earlier Monday by the government-approved PDI leader, Suryadi.

Megawati, the daughter of founding President Sukarno, was ousted by a government-backed party faction in June. *(AFP)*

Judge Orders Arrest of Former Telecom Minister

NEW DELHI, India — A judge on Monday ordered the arrest of a former communications minister whom federal police want to question about millions of rupees in cash they found in his house, a local news agency reported.

Sukh Ram cancelled his return to New Delhi minutes before he was to board an aircraft in London on Sunday, newspapers reported, quoting Indian Embassy officials in London.

Ram, who was abroad for treatment of cardiac problems, said the airline had failed to ensure a doctor was on board. The airline said it was Ram's responsibility to get a doctor to accompany him.

On Monday, a judge in New Delhi ordered police to arrest Ram, Press Trust of India news agency reported. The judge did not specify the charges on which Ram was to be held.

The Central Bureau of Investigation raided Ram's home last month and recovered 36 million rupees (more than $1 million) in cash. Police question how Ram, a former municipal clerk who rose to become lawmaker, could have amassed the fortune.

(AP)

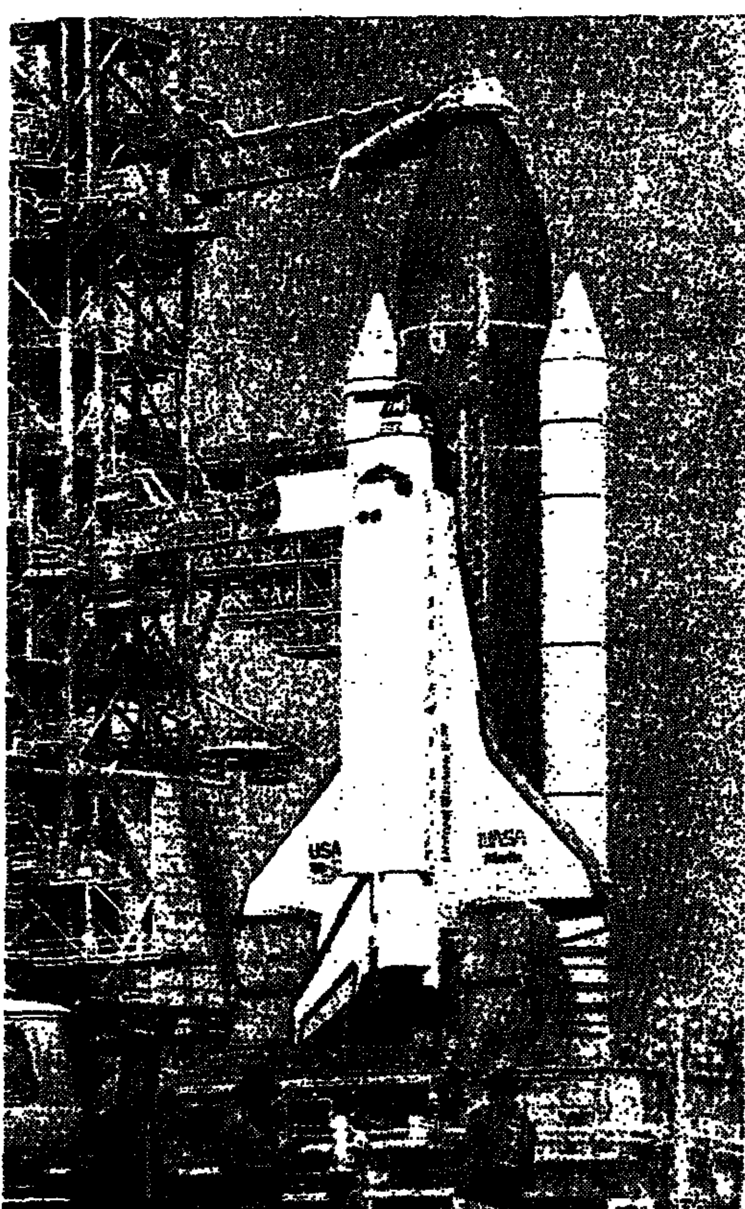
Mother Teresa Taken to Hospital After Fall

NEW DELHI, India — Mother Teresa was taken to a Calcutta hospital to be examined by her doctors Monday after she fell and complained of giddiness, a member of her charity group said.

A nun from the missionaries of charity said by the telephone from Calcutta that mother Teresa's condition was not considered serious, but that the 86-year-old Roman Catholic leader was very weak.

The nun, who declined to be identified, said doctors recommended a complete checkup be conducted in the hospital. *(AP)*

Atlantis Blasts Off - Finally - to Retrieve Stuck Astronaut



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL, United States (Sept. 16): Camera technicians load cameras at Kenneddy Space Center's launch pad 39-A as the countdown continues for the planned early September 16 launch of the space shuttle Atlantis to dock with the Russian spacee station Mir. Crew member John Blaha will remain aboard Mir replacing Shannon Lucid who will return to earth aboard Atlantis completing a record setting stay on the Russian station.

(AFP PHOTO)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Space Shuttle Atlantis blasted off Monday to retrieve NASA Astronaut Shannon Lucid from Russia's orbiting Mir Station, but quickly ran into equipment trouble that threatened to cut the mission short.

Soon after Atlantis reached orbit - more than six weeks late because of mechanical and weather delays - a hydraulic power unit shut down prematurely.

Engineers could not immediately determine what went wrong and were evaluating the capability of the two remaining units "and their impact on mission duration," mission control said.

"We kind of figured as much," shuttle Commander William Readdy replied.

Lucid has been living on Mir since March. Bringing her back is NASA's No.1 priority.

Everything was going well as Atlantis roared into a black sky with six astronauts at 4:54 a.m. (0854 GMT), piercing thin clouds. Then the hydraulic unit trouble struck.

Lucid has set a U.S. space endurance record as well as a world record for a woman with her six-month stay. If Atlantis returns Sept.26 as originally planned, she will have spent 188 days in orbit, 48 days more than expected.

The 53-year-old biochemist and mother of three grown children was supposed to return to earth in early August. But problems with booster rockets (the two on Atlantis had to be replaced) and two hurricanes stalled the shuttle's ferry trip.

The 54-year-old Blaha, a retired air force colonel and former combat pilot, will spend the next four months on Mir with two Russian cosmonauts.

(AP)

Russian Power Workers Launch Indefinite Strike

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia — Thousands of energy-sector workers in the Russian far eastern region of Primorye went on indefinite strike Monday over non-payment of wages after last-minute negotiations fell apart.

A final plea for time by authorities to the main Dalenergo Electric Power Station on Sunday failed to persuade the 16,300 workers to abandon their open-ended strike plans, plunging the region into a power crisis as winter approached.

The Dalenergo workers were owed wages from as far back as May, amounting to about 130 billion rubles (26 million U.S. dollars), strike officials said.

"We are obliged to begin an indefinite strike because all the other attempts to get justice have been in vain," the head of the strike committee, Gennady Tkachuk, told reporters.

"We will continue the strike until our demands are met or we get guarantees that they will be met," he said. *(AFP)*



KAMPALA - Heavy fighting between Zairean government troops and armed rebels in eastern Zaire has forced 200 Zaireans to flee across the border into Uganda.

HONG KONG - A protest ship will leave Hong Kong this weekend to protest Japanese sovereignty over disputed islands in the east China Sea.

HONG KONG - A Nigerian man put nine people, including seven prison officers in hospital after a fight Monday with Vietnamese inmates in a Hong Kong prison.

ANKARA - The Muslim mayor of Persembe, Nusret Ozyurt, was shot dead by the owner of a pub he had closed for selling alcoholic beverages.

HONG KONG - The Hong Kong authorities on Monday began clearing over 5,000 Vietnamese from a detention camp in their biggest operation yet to make sure no boat people remain when the territory returns to Chinese rule.

ROME - The head of the Italian railway system, Lorenzo Necci, has been arrested on a long list of charges of fraud and money-laundering.

TURIN - A state prosecutor has opened an investigation for fraud against the new chief executive of the Olivetti Computer Company, Francesco Caio.

ISLAMABAD - Religious schools have been temporarily closed in a Pakistani tribal town after 97 killings there in five days of fighting between Sunni and Shia Muslims.



PERVOMAYSKAYA, CHECHNYA, Russian Federation (Sept. 13) Chechen Muslims bend down while praying for those killed in front of them in the village of Pervomayskaya. Russian peace envoy Alexander Lebed said September 15 that Chechnya was far from forming a temporary coalition post-war government and the guerrilla proposals were not sufficiently representative.



COURAGEOUS PEOPLE OF W. AZARBAIJAN

ONCE MORE GOD BESTOWED HIS BLESSING ON US BY THE VISIT OF GRAND LEADER AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI. ALL CORNERS OF THE PROVINCE ARE FILLED WITH THE CALL OF

STEP UPON THE SEEDS OF MY EYES, DEAR LEADER

ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN THE PROVINCE, SWEAR ALLEGIANCE WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THE LAST OUNCE OF THEIR LIVES. THE PEOPLE OF WEST AZARBAIJAN WELCOME THE GRAND LEADER'S ARRIVAL IN MILLIONS. THEY CALL OUT 'WE ARE YOUR OBEDIENT SOLDIERS' TO DISAPPOINT THE ENEMIES ONCE MORE.

WE HEREBY WELCOME THE GRAND LEADER'S ARRIVAL AND THANK HIS VISIT TO THE REGION. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCE WE SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE RIGHT SUCCESSOR OF THE LATE IMAM KHOMEINI AND EXPRESS OUR READINESS TO DEFEND ISLAM, QORAN AND VELAYAT TO THE LAST OUNCE OF OUR STRENGTH.

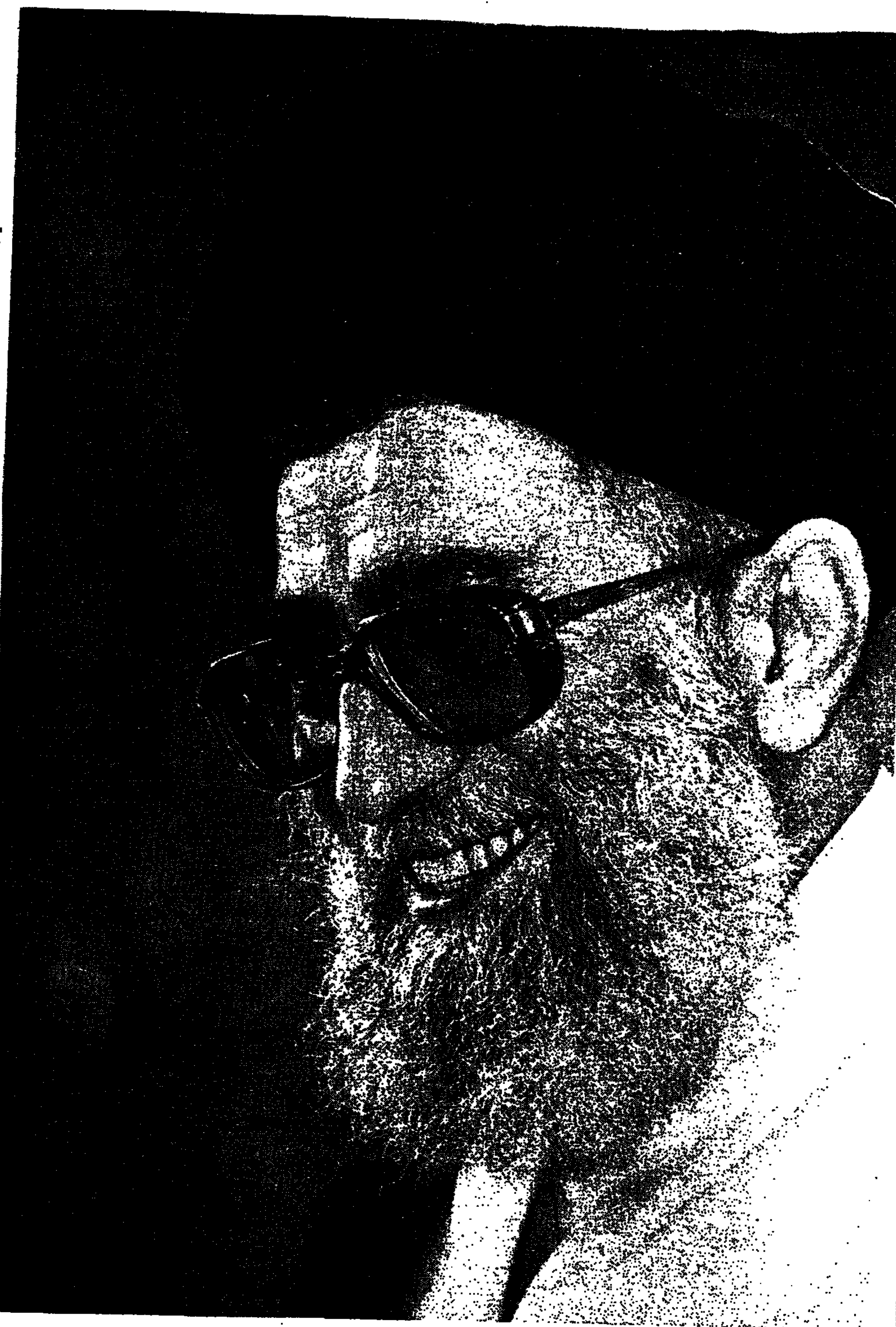
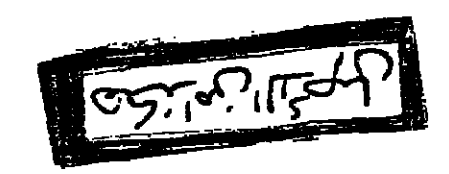


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

VALI-E FAQIH REPRESENTATIVE IN URUMIEH

URUMIEH GOVERNOR GENERAL

A REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNCIL OF EXPERTS IN URUMIEH



هكذا من الأصل

THE SAVANT GRAND LEADER'S VISIT TO WEST AZARBAIJAN IS HIGHLY WELCOME.

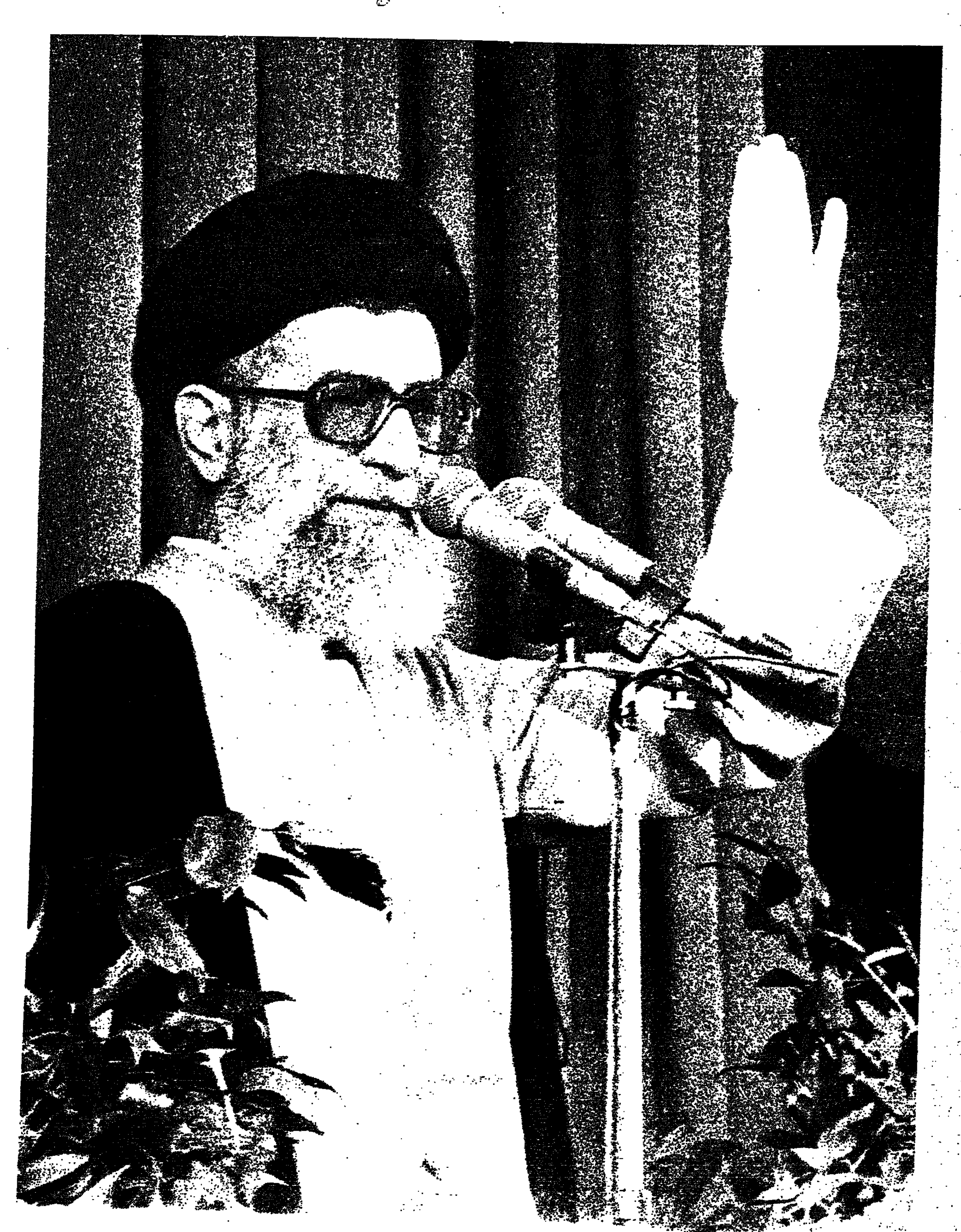


Photo: Kaveh Ahmadi

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF URUMIEH

ONCE AGAIN WEST AZARBAIJAN IS OVERTHRILLED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE GRAND LEADER AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI IN THE PROVINCE. ONCE AGAIN THE CALL OF ALLEGIANCE IN THE PROVINCE IS BEING ECHOED EVERYWHERE.

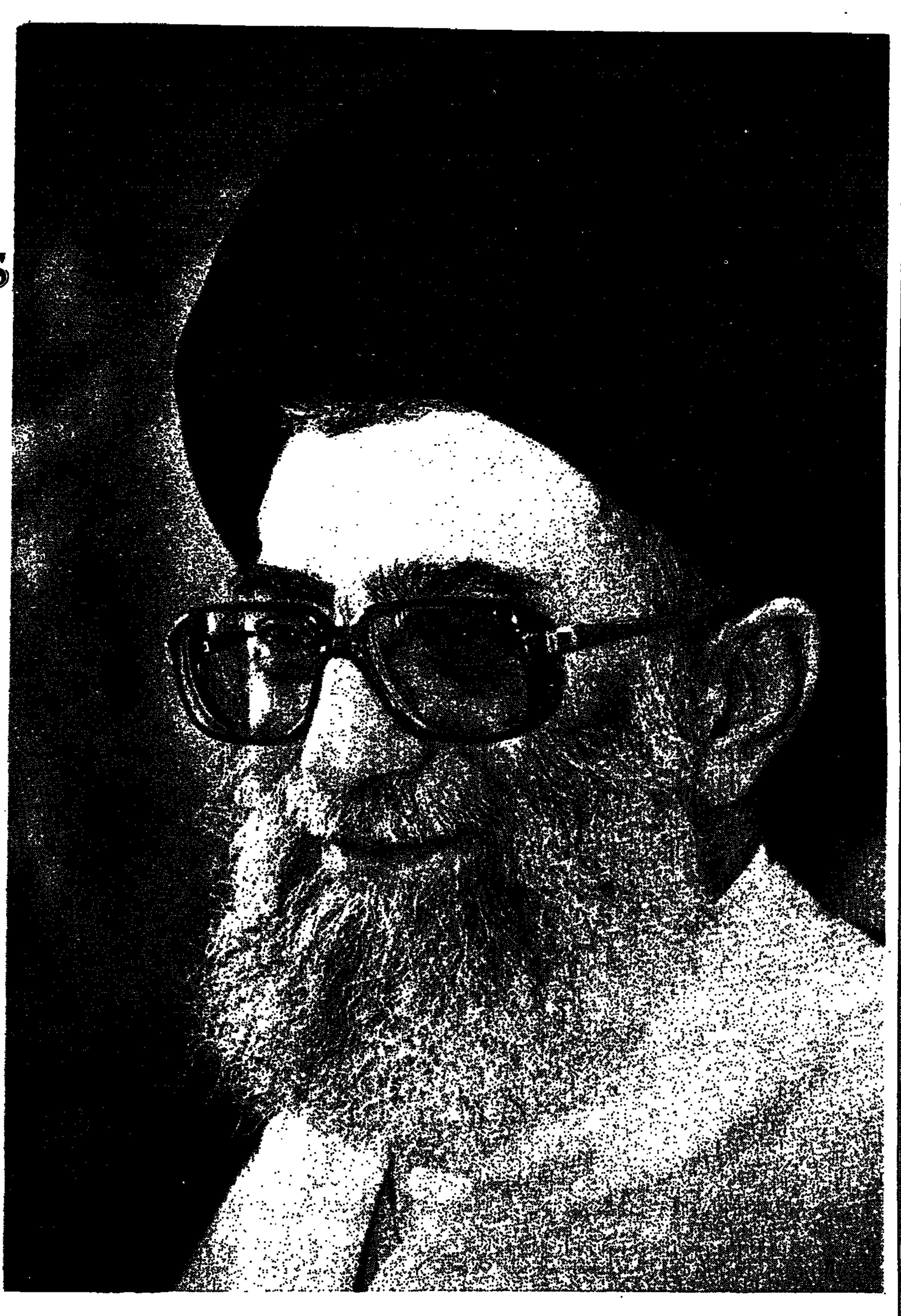
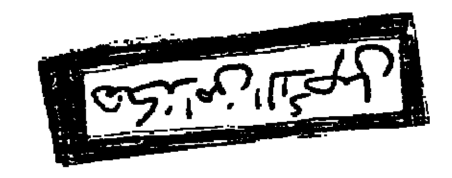


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

GRAND LEADER'S VISIT TO WEST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE IS CELEBRATED.

MUNICIPALITY OF URUMIEH



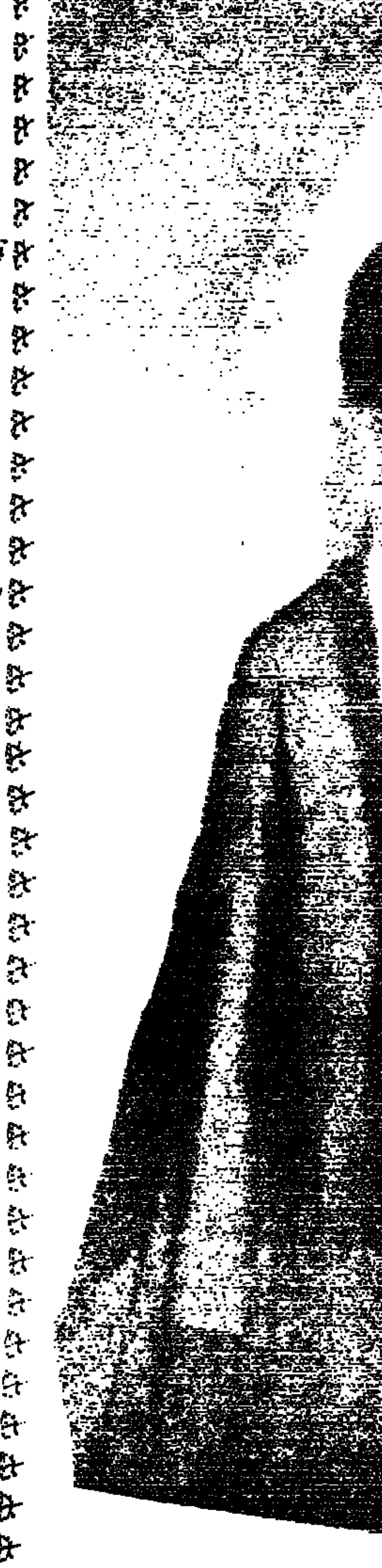
THE ENDLESS WAIT CAME TO AN END AND THE DREAMS CAME TRUE. THE COURAGEOUS WEST AZARBAIJANIS, WAITING EAGERLY FOR THEIR GRAND LEADER'S ARRIVAL, NOW ARE PLEASED AND PROUD WITH AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI'S VISIT TO THE PROVINCE.



HOW DELIGHTFUL IS JOINING THE LEADER,
HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE MOMENTS WITH HIM,
WHEN THE DAYS ARE BRIGHTER AND THE HEARTS HEARTIER.
PIRANSHAHR CITIZENS WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF THE GRAND LEADER TO THE PROVINCE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS.

GOVERNOR OF PIRANSHAHR

Photo: Mojtaba Takin



O, HE WHOSE UNION IS MOST DESIRED [illegible]

NOW THE SUN SHINES BRIGHTER THAN EVER IN OUR CITY AND THE HEARTS NEARER.



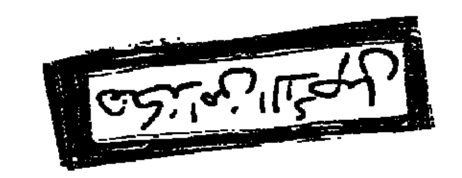


THE NOBLE PEOPLE OF WEST AZARBAIJAN CARPET THE ROAD WITH THEIR HEART OF HEARTS FOR GRAND LEADER'S ARRIVAL WAITING ALL EARS FOR HIS SAGACITY AND THOUGHTS.

MAHABAD, THE BREATHTAKING HEART OF IRAN, HOME TO COMPASSIONATE AND GRATEFUL PEOPLE, IN A SACRED ASSEMBLY, REINFORCES ITS UNION AND SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE GRAND LEADER, AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI, THE RIGHT SUCCESSOR OF IMAM KHOMEINI.

FOR THY ARRIVAL, DAYS AND DAYS PASSED BY AND AT LAST THE SEED OF WAITING BORE FRUIT.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE OF MAHABAD



FELICITATIONS ON THE BLESSED VISIT OF GRAND LEADER AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI TO WEST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE.

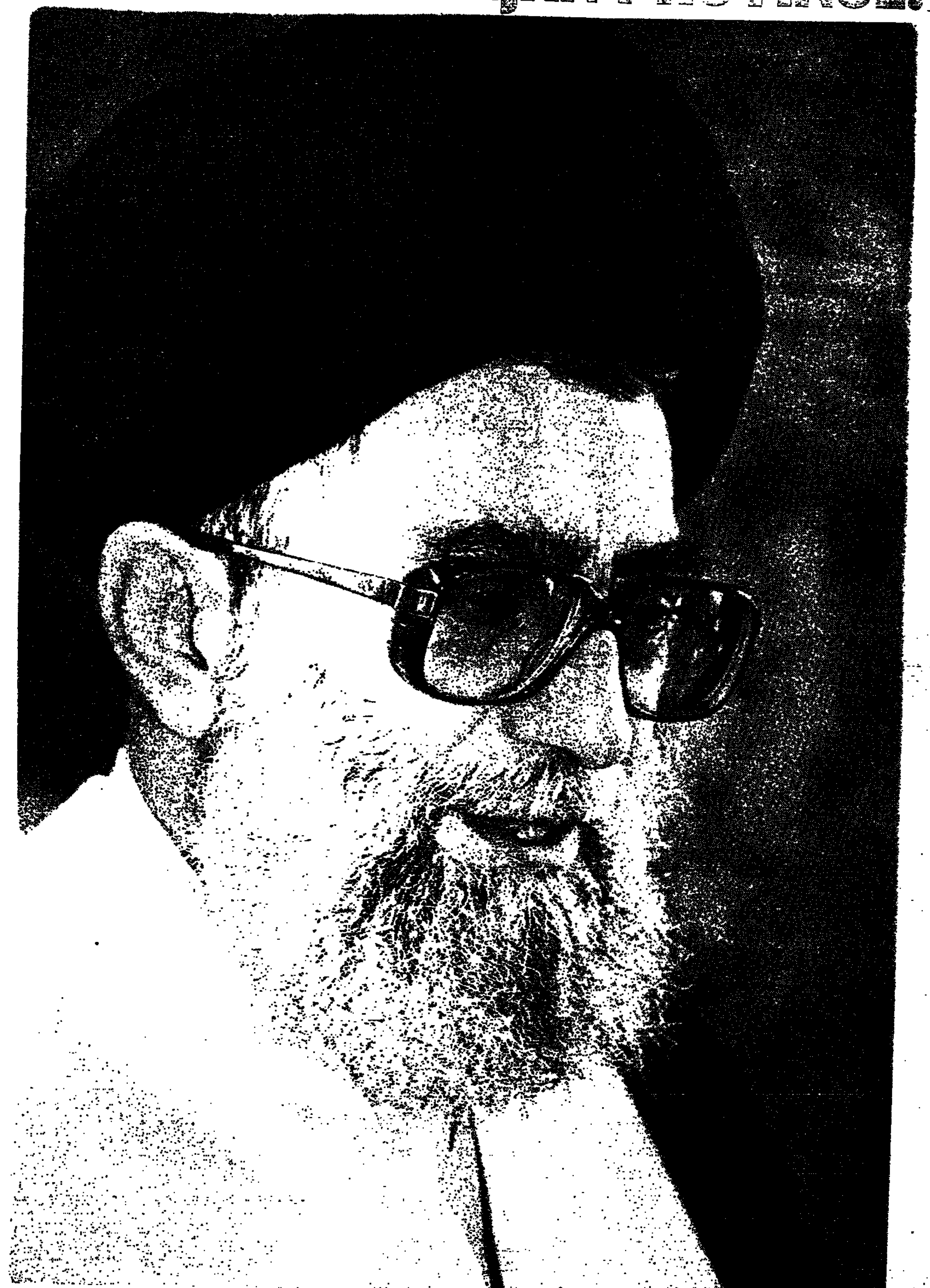


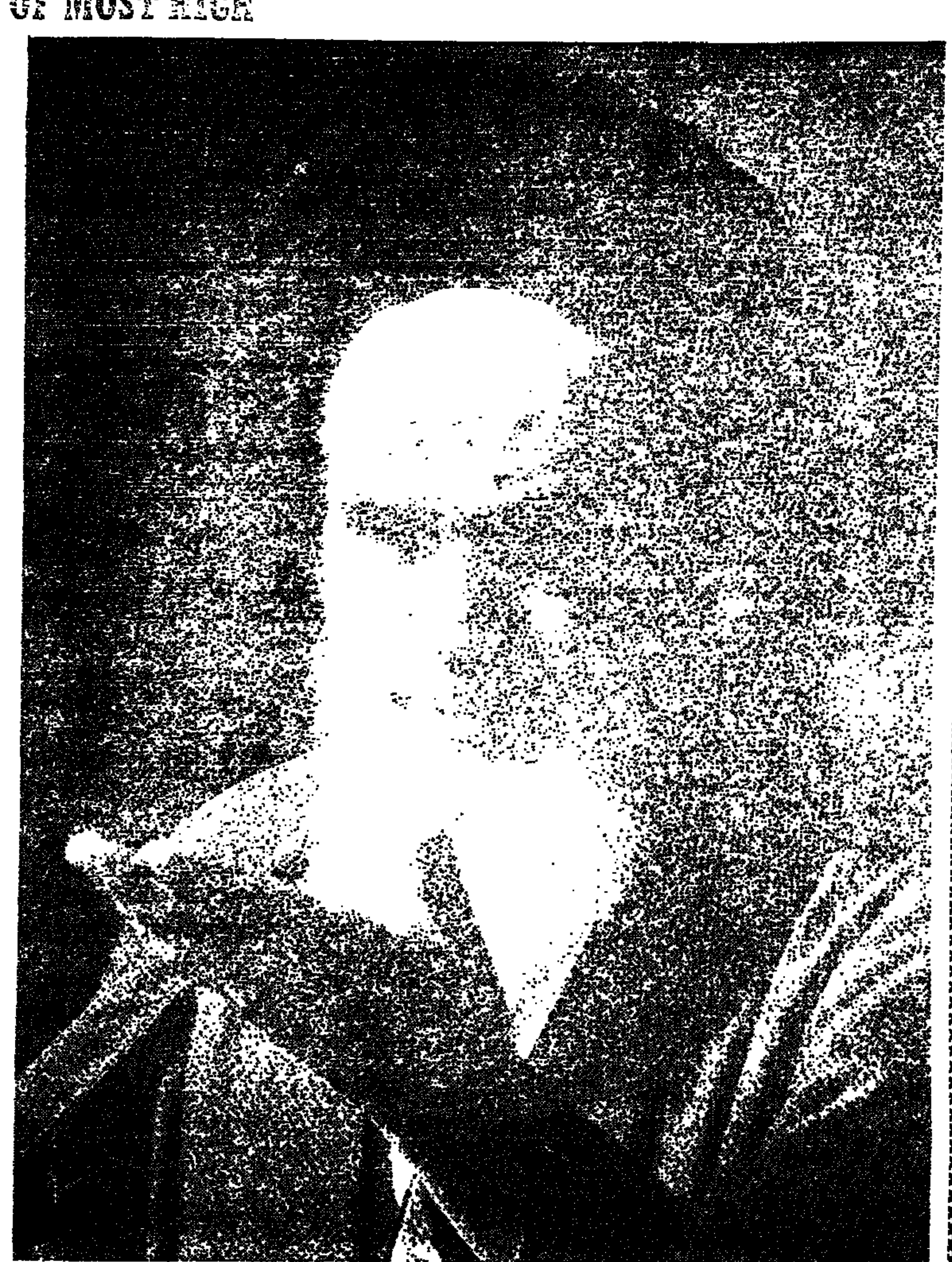
Photo: Abbas Kowsari

CITIZENS, MARTYRS' FAMILIES AND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF KHOY

WE OFFER
BOOKAN

IN THE NAME OF MOST HIGH



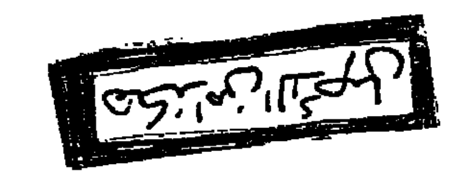


WE THANK GOD AND PRAY HOPING FOR HIS RESPONSE ON THE BLESSED VISIT OF THE GRAND LEADER WHOM THE GREAT FOUNDER OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, THE LATE IMAM (RA), APPOINTED AS HIS SUCCESSOR. THE WEST AZARBAIJAN PEOPLE REJOICE OVER THE NEWS AND THEY ARE IMPATIENTLY AND EAGERLY WAITING FOR HIS ARRIVAL SINCE THEY ARE COMPLETELY SURE THAT THE HARD TIMES DUE TO HIS BLESSED VISIT EXIST NO LONGER.

WE OFFER THE PEOPLE OF WEST AZARBAIJAN PARTICULARLY BOOKAN CITIZENS OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI'S VISIT.

BOOKAN GOVERNOR

Photo: Abbas Kowsari



هكذا من الأصل



THE GRAND LEADER IS WARMLY WELCOME



FELICITATIONS ON THE GRAND LEADER AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI'S VISIT TO WEST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE

Naqadeh Friday Prayers Leader
Naqadeh Sunni Friday Prayers Leader

Naqadeh Governor

Naqadeh Representative in Majlis

BOOKAN CITIZENS EXPRESS THEIR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRAND LEADER'S VISIT TO WEST AZARBAIJAN TO ALL TRUTH-SEEKERS OF THE PROVINCE AND THE BOOKANIS. HIS ARRIVAL IS WELCOME.

BOOKAN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

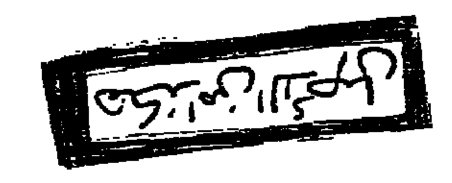
BOOKAN TRADE UNIONS AND ASSEMBLY OF GUILD AFFAIRS

WEST AZARBAIJAN PEOPLE AWAIT ARRIVAL OF GRAND LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION.

HIS VISIT IS MOST WELCOME TO THE LAND OF ARTISTS.



W. AZARBAIJAN MANAGEMENT OF HANDICRAFTS INDUSTRIES PERSONNEL



TV Programs

Tuesday Evening, September 17

National Network, Channel 1:

13:10 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 Sports Program
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Interlude
18:30 Carpets
18:55 The Move
19:00 News
19:15 Religious Program
19:28 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:00 Aseman Airlines
20:10 Special Program on Agriculture
20:38 Interlude
20:45 Press Review
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials
21:40 Summer 75
22:10 Religious Program
22:30 Foreign TV Series
23:00 Russia at a Glance
23:30 Documentary

National Network, Channel 2:

13:07 Religious Program
13:15 Interlude
13:30 War Disabled Sports
14:00 Foreign TV Series
15:00 Training of Wrestling
15:30 Advanced Arabic
16:00 Scientific Educational Documentary
16:30 Documentary, Chinese Goose
17:00 Cultural Magazine
17:30 Religious Program
18:00 Children's Program
19:00 Confrences' Review
19:26 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:45 Interlude
20:00 Summertime Program
20:30 Scientific, Cultural News
20:45 Religious Program
21:00 Feature Film
22:30 News
22:45 Nightly Notes
23:00 Night-Time Program
23:30 Travel to Gilan
23:45 Weekly Dialogues

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Quran
16:15 Freshness
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
18:15 Interlude
18:30 Documentary
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:15 Second Season
19:29 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:50 Sports News
20:00 Foreign TV Series
20:45 Goal
21:00 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Quran
17:15 World of Animals
17:30 Face to Face
18:00 You and Counsellors
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Another Kind
19:29 Call to Prayer (Azan)
19:35 Report on Tehran Districts
19:45 Medical Points
20:15 Travelling
20:30 Commercials
20:45 Walking in Tehran
21:00 The 5th Look
21:30 Japan
22:00 News, Commentary
22:15 In the City
22:45 Music of Films
23:00 Great Competition
23:15 Memories
23:30 Sights & Sounds

Wednesday Morning, September 18

National Network, Channel 1:

05:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Quran
05:40 Good Morning Iran
09:10 Children's Program
10:10 Foreign TV Series
11:00 Children's Program
12:00 Knowledge of Life
12:30 Focus on Family
12:58 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Quran
06:15 Scientific Educational Documentary
07:00 Documentary
07:30 New Day
08:15 Religious Program
08:30 Training of Wrestling
09:00 Advanced Arabic
09:30 We & Our Children
09:45 Basic Concepts
10:00 Religious Program
10:15 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
12:00 Summertime Program
12:30 Confrences' Review

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Quran
07:45 Sports Exercises
08:30 Freshness
09:15 The Tops
09:30 Reflection
10:00 Speak To Me
10:30 The Youth (in Orumiyeh)
11:00 Foreign TV Series

Boy Safely Ends Pacific Journey

SAN FRANCISCO, California — A 14-year-old Japanese boy has ended his arduous solo sailboat journey from Japan to the United States, cruising under the Golden Gate Bridge and into the record books.

Subaru Takahashi's 9,600-kilometer (6,000 mile) trip began July 22 on the coast of Yumenoshima in Tokyo Bay.

He was feared lost at sea after his radio equipment broke down in mid-August, but those fears were proved groundless when the U.S. coast guard received a radio report from a Canadian man sailing in San Francisco Bay whom Takahashi hailed around 2140 GMT.

A resident of Niigata Prefecture in central Japan, he is the youngest person known to have sailed the Pacific alone.

Coast guard cutters escorted the boy and his malfunctioning sailboat to a yacht club in Tiburon, California, on the eastern side of San Francisco Bay.

His parents, friends and a media throng awaited the young mariner.

After setting sail from Yumenoshima, an artificial island built on top of a pile of garbage, the boy was plagued by problems that included battery and engine trouble in his first week out.

His radio signals were blocked by sunspot activity in early August and contact with him was last made August 16.

At that time, he radioed that he was 4,464 kilometers (2,790 miles) west of San Francisco. Mechanical breakdowns had left him without engine or electrical power.

Among the things he had to make do without was the equipment that automatically kept him on the right course. He had only the wind to rely on to get him to California.

Such daredevil feats by youngsters fell under the spotlight in the United States this year after a seven-year-old California girl, Jessica Dubroff, died trying to become the youngest person to pilot an airplane across the country.

Takahashi has canoed since he was five years old and crossed the Sado Strait in the Sea of Japan when he was nine. He did not start training for his Pacific odyssey until March of this year.

The boy underwent 500 hours of intensive training with yachting experts before departing.

After dropping the anchor of his boat the "advantage" off the Tiburon coast, the boy said his adventure was a prelude to a bigger dream, sailing solo around the world.

Takahashi is a third-year student of a junior high school in Shirana, Niigata Prefecture, on the Japan sea.

For now he is savoring the joy of his achievement. He said that after sighting the California coast, he grew too excited to sleep and could not stop smiling.

Prior to his stepping ashore Friday, the record books listed the youngest person to have crossed the Pacific alone as Kenichi Horie of Japan. He was 23 when he made his trip in 1962. (AFP)

"Poland Should Claim Back Gold Looted by Nazis"

WARSAW, Poland — Poland should claim back the gold that the Nazis looted when they occupied the country during World War II, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, a former foreign minister said Saturday.

Last Tuesday, the British government said that the Nazis looted more than $550 million in gold and valuables — now worth over $6 billion — in the countries they invaded before and during the war. The report said that most of the gold was looted from Jews and stashed in Swiss banks.

"Poland should claim back the gold looted from the citizens and from institutions," Skubiszewski said in a letter published on the front page of the national daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

"This is a question of restitution, not of compensation for war damages," he said.

The United States and its allies, who knew of the plunder at the time, recovered part of the loot after the war, but not Poland, which the Allies had left under Moscow's influence, behind the Iron Curtain.

Skubiszewski, foreign minister from 1989 until 1993, said that the gold looted from Jews who have no inheritors, should be given to proper Jewish organizations. Some 3.5 million Jews or a tenth of the country's population lived in Poland before the war.

He suggested that state offices should establish whose gold was taken, to make restitution possible to those individuals and institutions.

Eugeniusz Szyr, a former communist official, told *Gazeta* on Friday he believes that the 1.5 million documented claims from individuals and institutions gathered after the war, should still be in the archives.

Szyr, 81, participated in post-war negotiations with the Allies on the possibility of restitution of gold looted in Poland.

"Our country never got any of the gold that the Allies recovered from Swiss banks," Szyr said. Neither did it get the 15 percent of war damages compensation accorded by the Allies to the Soviet Union, he said.

Under Nazi occupation from 1939-45, Poland lost some 38 percent of its national wealth, which was the highest damage any country suffered then, Szyr said.

Skubiszewski welcomed the British revelations, but said that "the question remains — why so late." (AP)

One in Three Graduates Fails to Find Work in Italy

ROME — One graduate in three in Italy fails to find a job within three years of completing a degree, according to figures published by the national statistics institute ISTAT.

Only 66.8 percent of students surveyed had found work three years after graduating, of which 14.6 percent had already been in employment before taking their degree and were continuing in the same job.

The remaining 33.2 percent were not engaged in any paid activity.

By sector, agriculture had the highest rate of take-up with 72.6 percent of graduates finding jobs, against 71.9 percent in engineering and 71.3 percent for medicine. Worse off were graduates in law (43.5 percent) and the arts (47.8 percent), with biology trailing in last at only 15.5 percent.

Southern Italy has the highest number of unemployed graduates at 38.7 percent, with women markedly worse off, at 46.8 percent looking for work. (AFP)

Secrets of Ancient China Displayed But Mysteries Remain

LONDON — Relics of a Chinese kingdom which vanished 3,000 years ago, and had long been known only from a poem, have gone on display at the British museum.

Officials from Beijing say the exhibits are the most remarkable finds made in the past decade of archaeological excavation in China. Some of the relics are so mysterious that Chinese and Western experts will be arguing about them for years to come.

A bronze figure of a man more than seven feet (2.1 meters) tall, as well as bronze heads, a bronze mask with bulbous eyes and huge ears, bronze vessels, fragments of trees made of bronze with birds perching in them, jades and fragments of gold are the centerpiece of the show, "Mysteries of Ancient China: New Discoveries from the Early Dynasties".

The exhibition opened Friday and continues through January 5.

The finds from the lost kingdom were dug up at Sanxingdui in Guanghan County, Sichuan Province, from pits that also held tusks of elephants which once roamed widely in China.

"These finds could be the start of rewriting our earliest history," Chen Lie, archaeologist and senior curator of the China Cultural Relics Promotion Center in Beijing, said at a preview of the exhibition.

"It used to be thought that Chinese civilization developed in the Valleys of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers but the Guanghan finds prove there were other tribal groups developing at the same level elsewhere. The life-size bronze shows great technical skill and suggests it was made in an organized society with a long history," he said in an interview.

"The contents of the pits were either the remains of a sacrificial ceremony or were buried when the region was invaded by barbarians or neighbors. The kingdom disappeared from history — we don't know why — and as there were no historical records its existence was known only from an early Tang Dynasty poem by Li Bai about 1,700 years later. The poem tells of the difficulty of visiting the region because of mountains around it," Chen said.

The decoration on the bronze vessels is similar to that of China's first great Bronze Age dynasty, the Shang, which flourished for about 500 years before 1000 BC. It is presumed there was some contact between the two kingdoms.

The exhibition begins with pottery and jade finds of the Neolithic Period starting about 4500 BC and continues through the Shang, Zhou, Qin and Han dynasties.

There are large stone carvings, necklaces, pieces of silk over 2,000 years old, sets of bronze bells which can still be played, hair ornaments, early texts burned into the shoulder blade of an ox and the breastplate of a turtle and large bronze objects in wheel or diamond shapes whose purpose is a mystery.

A jade burial suit designed to aid the immortality of Prince Liu Sheng who died in 113 BC is displayed, one of more than 40 such suits found in tombs of rulers and aristocrats. It consists of 2,498 small jade plaques and would have taken 10 years to make as the mineral is so hard it can only be shaped by rubbing.

The exhibition previously appeared in the German cities of Essen and Munich, then in Zurich, Switzerland. From London it goes to Denmark and then back to China where the exhibits return to different museums. (AP)

Restorer Builds His House Over Pharaoh's Tomb

CAIRO — Egyptian authorities have arrested a man employed by the Antiquities Department who built his house on the tomb of an unidentified pharaoh in the Qurnah region of Luxor in south Egypt, the government daily *Al-Ahram* reported on Saturday.

The tomb belongs to a pharaoh and his wife who lived in the 19th Dynasty (1314-1200 B.C.) of the New Empire, the daily said, adding that studies were underway to identify the couple, who were represented by two statues.

The tomb consists of a big room that have six marble columns and two others made of rock.

A long spiral-form corridor which spread over 100 meters leads to the funerary chambers of the king and the queen.

A sarcophagus made of rose granite bearing hieroglyphics and colored pharaonic drawings was found in the funerary chamber.

A mummy wrapped in linen was found nearby.

The restorer, who was employed by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, found the tomb more than 10 years ago while he was working in Luxor, 700 kilometers (432 miles) south of Cairo, and home to the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens.

He hid the tomb and built a house on top of it to be able to steal the treasures that lay inside and then smuggle them out of the country and sell them abroad through a brother who lives in Europe, *Al-Ahram* said.

The restorer was helped by his father, a former employee of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), a brother and a security guard who also worked for the SCA. (AFP)

AIDS Spreads Rapidly in South Africa

According to the writer, AIDS is spreading faster in South Africa than elsewhere on the continent, and the problem cannot be solved by mere technological fixes. The only long-term solution lies in redistribution of resources, wealth and power.

By David Werner

AIDS in South Africa is spreading faster than elsewhere on the continent, and is having a devastating impact on people's health and lives. Currently, the incidence of AIDS doubles every 12 or 13 months! Anonymous blood testing shows that one in 10 pregnant women in South Africa is HIV positive.

Transmission of HIV in South Africa is mostly heterosexual. Since HIV passes more readily from men to women than from women to men, more women than men are infected. Many women fall ill with AIDS in their early 20s, having contracted the virus in their teens.

The rising death rate from AIDS will have a far-reaching effect on society. Educational and care-providing services will be hit especially severely since most nurses and school teachers are women.

The impact on children will be devastating. Already in some provinces recent gains made through child survival campaigns have been reversed because of AIDS. One of three babies born to HIV-positive mothers contracts HIV and will die in a few years after prolonged illness, chronic diarrhoea, and weight loss. Also, millions of children will be orphaned. Currently, non-governmental organizations are trying to provide for AIDS orphans, but NGOs will probably be unable to cope with the growing numbers.

Paradoxically, some social scientists predict that the escalating AIDS disaster may spur a radical restructuring of society, with a return to the extended family and communal living. They suggest that the current high rates of youth violence and membership in gangs is in part a consequence of the dysfunction of the nuclear family.

In the 'modern' nuclear family, introduced by the white ruling class, children are often left alone for long periods while both parents work (or look for work). There is a losss of community and peer support. Single mothers abound.

Lost to a large extent is the social fabric of caring and sharing of traditional African village structure, which provided a supportive communal environment for children. In the old days, several related families lived in a circle of huts and shared resources, food, child care, and other responsibilities with one another, like one big close-knit family.

The roots of such communal living run deep. Social scientists predict that the AIDS pandemic may, in the long run, forge the way toward a more caring and humane social order, one in which cooperation and basic needs are more important than competition and economic growth. Nevertheless the human suffering from the AIDS pandemic- with so much protracted sickness and death- will be tremendous.

Trials are underway to determine the safety and effectiveness of a topical viricidal agent called N-9 that can be sprayed into the vagina. The thin coating of N-9 reduces the spread of HIV, both from man to woman and from woman to man. A new preparation with a biological adhering agent is said to provide protection for up to 24 hours.

Such technologies may be helpful. But sooner or later South Africa- like the rest of the world- will need to face the fact that technological fixes are not sufficient to cope with AIDS and other monumental problems whose roots are social and political. The spread of AIDS, like the growing violence, is linked to extreme poverty and gross inequality between classes, races and gender.

The only long-term solution to the crises of our times will come through redistribution of resources, wealth and power. The new South Africa- with the leadership of Nelson Mandela, and with a strong popular base born from the long struggle for racial equality- is in a better position than many countries to oppose the dehumanizing market-friendly model of development.

It has the opportunity to embrace a model of development based on equity, which favors the needy before the greedy. It has the possibility to build ing society which strives for the well-being of all through cooperation, rather than the prosperity of a select few through competition. In today's troubled world such alternative is sorely needed.

Achieving such a people-friendly alterative for development will not be easy. The globalized market is not kind to nations that put human need before economic growth. If South Africa is to succeed in turning the tide toward a more egalitarian paradigm of development, it will need support from a coalition of progressive grassroots movements around the world.

(Courtesy Third World Network Features)

Parents Revolt Against Violence

CHICAGO — Large numbers of parents in the United States are stomping out of movie theaters and turning off TV sets because of overt violence in entertainment, a survey said recently.

"It is clear that the time has come to stop this media madness, and parents across America know it," said John Nelson, a trustee of the American Medical Association which funded the poll.

The survey found that 66 percent of all adults among the 800 people questioned had turned off a TV program or left a movie theater because of violence on the screen. Among parents who were in the company of children the turn-off, walk-out level was 75 percent.

The survey also said 68 percent of parents want a stronger movie rating system, 81 percent want a rating system for TV shows and computer games and 72 percent want one for music.

"Our kids spend more time today learning about life through media than any other source. We know media violence leads to real life violence," said Nelson, an obstetrician from Salt Lake City who is the father of eight.

"Our children learn by example, whether it be from positive role models like caring parents, Mr. Rogers, Michael Jordan or from destructive influences like Mortal Kombat, Gangsta Rap, Power Rangers and Terminator One and Two," he added.

"Not only is our country's overdose of media violence contributing to a generation of individuals who are aggressive and insolent, they are young people who are also suffering the effects of couch potato syndrome and brain drain," said Nelson.

His comments were prepared for delivery at a news conference at the headquarters of the largest U.S. doctors' group at which the survey was to be released.

The AMA also said it was distributing a physician's guide to media violence to 60,000 doctors to help educate them and in turn their patients on the dangers of violence in entertainment.

David Walsh, founder of the National Institute on Media and the Family who helped the AMA draw up the guidelines, said "It is tragically ironic that at the very time we are wringing our hands about violent behavior among young people, we are simultaneously entertaining them with it."

The telephone survey was conducted early last month by Global Strategy Group Inc. of New York and had an error rate of plus or minus 3.5 percent. *(Reuter)*

THOUGHT

LIFE is long enough, it seems to me, but not quite broad enough.

Anonymous

PRAYER

Noon 12:57
Evening 18:22
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:20
Sunrise (tomorrow) 5:53

TODAY IN HISTORY

1935 - Manuel Quezon is elected first president of the Philippine Commonwealth.

1948 - Sweden's Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations mediator in Arab Israeli conflict over Palestine is slain near Bait-ul-Moqaddas by Zionist terror- and destroying armed satellites circling the earth.
Dr. Ralph Bunche of the United States.

1949 - Fire destroys Noronic, largest passenger steamer on Great Lakes, at Toronto (Canada) pier, killing more than 130 people.

1963 - Malaysia breaks off diplomatic relations with Indonesia because of what it describes as President Sukarno's increased hostility.

1964 - United States discloses development of two weapons systems capable of intercepting and destroying armed satellites circling the earth.

1967 - Riot during soccer game in Turkey kills 42 people and injures 600 others.

1970 - Open warfare erupts in Jordan between King Hussein's Army and Palestinian guerrillas, precipitating world crisis.

1978 - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin conclude meeting at Camp David (U.S.) with signing of framework for Middle East peace.

1980 - Exiled Nicaraguan Leader Anastasio Somoza, is assassinated in explosion that wrecks his car in Asuncion, Paraguay.

1988 - Burmese troops open fire on crowd of angry demonstrators who surround down town government building.



Letters							Scoring	
K_5	E_1	E_1	E_1	H_4	L_1	C_3		RACK 1
S_1	S_1	O_1	E_1	E_1	I_1	P_3	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
F_4	T_1	B_3	U_1	U_1	U_1	L_1		RACK 3
H_4	E_1	P_3	N_1	W_4	A_1	E_1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 80-90

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN.

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

1-13-95

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

C_3	H_4	A_1	L_1	K_5	E_1	D_2	RACK 1 =	84
M_3	E_1	R_1	C_3	U_1	R_1	Y_4	RACK 2 =	70
N_1	E_1	U_1	T_1	R_1	A_1	L_1	RACK 3 =	57
R_1	E_1	S_1	C_3	I_1	N_1	D_2	RACK 4 =	60

PAR SCORE 175-185 JUDD'S TOTAL 271

1-12-95

HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

"PEG LEG" IS THE NAME of a WOMAN LIVING in Fayetteville, N.C.!

AMERICAN AUTHOR Robert Bloch LEFT INSTRUCTIONS THAT HIS ASHES BE PLACED IN A BOOK-SHAPED URN AT THE University of Wyoming! SUBMITTED BY ROB CORTISE, SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Charlie J. Wells, A HORSESHOER in Encinal, Texas, HAS WORKED ON OVER 30,000 HORSES AND ONCE MADE SHOES FOR A BUFFALO!

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FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr





NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist










هکذا من الاصل

Karaj Instructor Training Center

[illegible] Vocational Training Center

Karaj Instructor Training Center, affiliated to the State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, was founded in 1984 with the aim of training instructors under the supervision of the organization.

The center enjoys high capital installations, equipment and facilities and its capacities and capabilities in the applied training courses are unique.

Karaj Instructor Training Center is one of the most equipped applied training centers in the Middle East which can meet the needs of domestic markets and render services to international markets as well as developing countries.

The training is aimed at technical self-assisting or public technical training, promotion of society's technical awareness, and the best utilization of the machinery.

Also the objective behind on-the-job training is highlighting workers' skills in industries lacking approved standards along with on-the-job training in the production line.

The center is active in training instructors, technical and vocational training, management training, procurement of training and sub-training equipment and documents, assessment of instructors and workers in the industry, rendering training services to friendly countries, offering consulting services to the interested organizations and industrial units, and research and development in manufacturing sub-training instruments.

During the current year almost 60 trainees from other industries and factories have attended special training courses in the center. Also 9 trainees from Lebanon have been trained in the center.

Concerning the center's external activities in applied technical post-diploma courses, 24 trainees from Afghanistan have accomplished a 2.1/2-year course in electricity, power and construction.

The center also renders summer recreational activities for the students in Karaj.

It was last Aban when preparations were made for traveling to Khuzestan and visiting the Sugar Cane Development Project, Engineer Bahman Zandi, the managing director of Ardel Investment Company, recommended us to put on programs of industries managers to visit Karaj Instructor Training Center.



Since then, such a visit was placed in 1996 agenda of the society and at last through Karaj Instructor Training Center Head Office's coordination a delegation of the society consisting 11 people of industries managers and the society's personnel visited some parts of the center between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on June 19, 1996 and the trainers of the workshops gave some explanations.

Engineer Moazzami, technical and training deputy of State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training, Engineer Moayyan, training manager at industries of organization, and also Engineer Movahhedian, head of Karaj Instructor Training Center warmly welcomed the society's dispatched delegation and familiarized them with some realities regarding technical and vocational training affair and they should be discussed in the country's industrial units.

The visiting delegation consisted of some industries managers of the society, some representatiyes of member managers, the society's public relations head, and some personnel of the society. The State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training which was host to the delegation consisted of deputies and managers of the organization's different departments.

The first work of establishing the instructor training center started during the 30s. At that time, the Technical and Vocational Training General Office was formed in Ministry of Labor. The Training Fund was set up in 1970 and after that the factories deposited 2 percent of their personnel's salary charge in the fund through which the training centers were established.

After the victory of Islamic Revolution, the Revolution Council approved the conglomeration of training centers, Training Fund and Technical and Vocational Training General Office in 1980 and in this way the Manpower Training Organization was set up. Later, the organization's name was changed into Organization for Technical and Vocational Training and last year the word 'State' was added to its first. Some of its arranged regulations of the organization are the same rules of the country's Training Fund.

Karaj Instructor Training Center is one of the centers which has been formed in the same organizational hierarchy. The construction operation of this center started in northern Karaj in 1974 and with around 80 percent of the project, the center was inaugurated in 1984.

Training and employing the staff needed by the State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training's centers and industrial centers; retraining the centers' instructors of the organization in order to promote their skills, designs; and offering courses on promoting skills, are among the objectives of the instructor training center. The first instructors were invited to the center since 1984 and up to now about 2,000 instructors have been trained in short- and long-term courses. These instructors are training in this center and other training centers of the country.

Training and employing the staff needed by the State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training's centers and industrial centers; retraining the centers' instructors of the organization in order to promote their skills, designs; and offering courses on promoting skills, are among the objectives of the instructor training center.

The center received the license in 1990 for running the post-diploma courses to develop the quantity and quality of needed human resources. The first post-diploma course was offered in 1991 and some 250 graduated in 1994. At present, some 170 old instructors are being trained in this degree and they will graduate by mid-July.

Also under a contract, the Executive Center for Industries Institute's Post-Diploma Courses has been affiliated to Ministry of Industries since 1990. So far, some majoring fields such as general mechanics, electricity, security issues as well as some servicing trainings were added to the institute's majors. In addition, the industries managers are invited to introduce their trainees to the center. Presently, some 100 trainees introduced by the industries sector are trained monthly.

It is worth mentioning that the center has the capability to carry out its laboratory test and render its services in the factories. In other words, the center due to the order of factory's mangers, examine the product in the factory through using X-rays and gamma. It is obvious that the factories of which the products need frequent tests, they can introduce their personnel to participate in the center's training courses.

In addition to machinery workshop, the center enjoys some other active workshops such as electricity workshop, welding workshop and computer department. The center's trainings are the prerequisites for the university syllabus and their priority over the university trainings is clear. For instance, winding forms only one credit in university while the center has six applied credits for their trainees.

The other advantage of the center over the university is that the center's electricity workshop trains according to the trainees' needs. Since a university favors mostly promotion of knowledge rather than increasing production, and also because the university does not deal with a specific individual, it renders general knowledge in the field. In this workshop, however, the skills are taught based on the will and need of the interested. Even the trainees in this center can assign the time span of their courses.

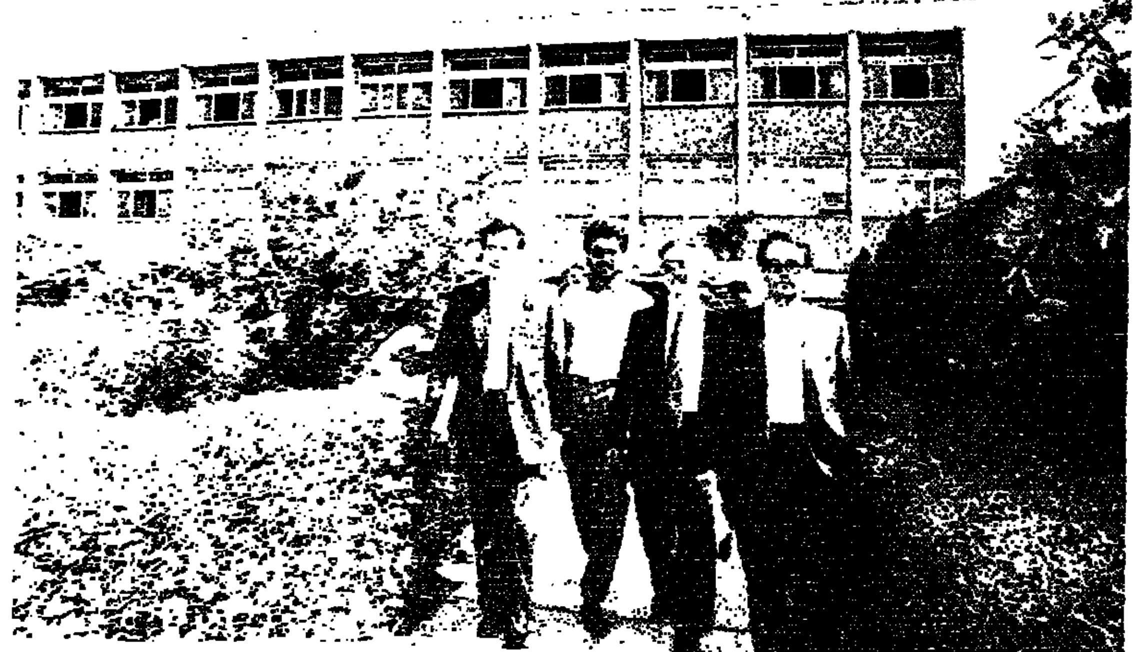
32 units, including 12 power boards are utilized here to teach circuits to the trainees. This section can train 120 trainees simultaneously with out overmaning any single set of the machinery.

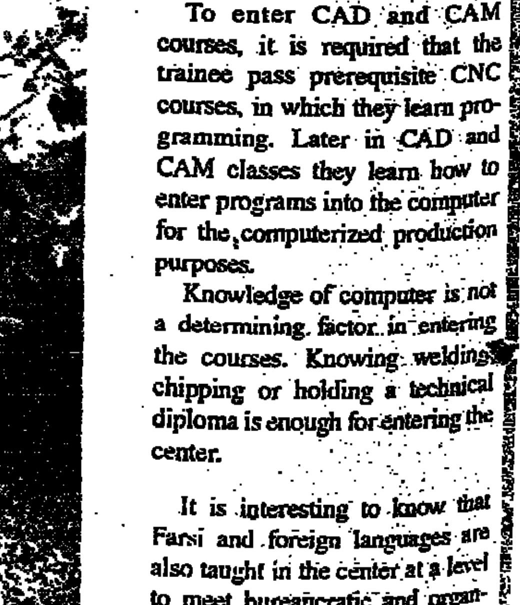
Welding section and its workshop is one of the exemplary ones in this center. Some popular methods of welding including co2 welding(MIG/MAG), argon, oxyacetylene, paste welding, high-voltage and arch welding are trained in this center. Also this center deserves the capability to launch destructive (pressure, shock, twist, etc.) and nondestructive (X-ray application, ultrasonic waves, penetrating liquids and ultrasonic units) tests. This section works with a capacity of 36 trainees.

One of the most modern workshops of this center is computer workshop or 'CAD and CAM'. Designing and drawing computer pieces, transforming the designs to CNC (meaningful for the manufacturing unit only), making sure the program is OK and finally altering them into programs to be read by the computer, all and all accomplished in this workshop.

To enter CAD and CAM courses, it is required that the trainee pass prerequisite CNC courses, in which they learn programming. Later in CAD and CAM classes they learn how to enter programs into the computer for the computerized production purposes.

Knowledge of computer is not a determining factor in entering the courses. Knowing welding, chipping or holding a technical diploma is enough for entering the center.





It is interesting to know that Farsi and foreign languages are also taught in the center at a level to meet bureaucratic and organizational requirements.

It is a plain truth that almost 140 technical and vocational cen-

Karaj Instructor Training Center to Promote Trainees' Technical Skills in Region and Middle East

ters in the country, in spite of being unknown to most citizens, have rendered valuable services to the industry sector of the country. So far 9,280,000 trainees have passed on-the-job training in the center, most of whom have been attracted in industrial units. Most others have completed their technical skills.

The training is aimed at technical self-assisting or public technical training, promotion of society's technical awareness, and the best utilization of the machinery.

Also some diplomaholders have passed applied training courses in the center to participate in technical and industrial activities of the country.

Engineer Ali Mohammad Movahhedian, the head of Karaj Instructor Center, took part in an interview to talk about the activities of the center.

Q: Engineer Movahhedian, what courses do you offer in Karaj Technical and Vocational Training Center?

A: The trainees in this center attend courses in: Power, electronics, automechanics, welding, machinery, designing, computer, wood industry, heating and cooling installations, hydraulic, pneumatics, science, casting, and pedology.

Q: What university degrees do your trainers hold?

A: In the aforementioned branches, most of the applied activity is focused on technical and vocational works. In a sense, 30 percent of the courses is presented theoretically and the rest 70 percent is performed in the workshops.

Enabling the trainees and trainers to accomplish industrial and specialized tasks in a way that the accomplished task be in conformity with the national and international standards, has been our utmost attention in this center. The instructors in the said courses are mostly experienced and qualified. For some specialized courses university professors holding MA or PhD degrees are invited to collaborate with the center.

Q: How do you accept your students and what certificates do you render?

A: The center accepts students in a number of ways: First, newly employed instructors, holding diploma or post diploma are introduced to the center to pass a 2-1/2-year course to receive post-diploma degree to enjoy its compensations.

The instructors holding a post-diploma degree will pass a 6-8-month special courses in the center in case they succeed in entrance examinations. Their courses include methodology and promotion of technical abilities. Those instructors with a post-diploma degree enjoy advanced courses that enable them to teach in second class training centers in the country.

It is planned that the post-diploma courses be presented to the trainees both theoretically and practically. The compensations to be allocated later will be based on the said courses.

Another field for the introduced trainees is industry. These trainees attend a special course namely 'skill promotion' to receive their certificate after a time span of six or seven months.

For the trainees who hold top grades in the field in the country, the center has held a few 4-6-month specialized courses to receive first class certificates after passing practical and theoretical classes.

Regarding the contracts concluded with some other training centers, some special courses have been created based on the requirements of the industrial and educational centers. Again the courses require theoretical and practical endeavors on the part of the trainees.

As an example this training center has concluded a contract with the training section of the Ministry of Industries to train post-diploma students for the ministry. The certificate, however, will be issued by Technical Faculty of Karaj Industries.

Another field of activity in Karaj Instructor Training Center is allocated for foreign trainees. Activities in this branch are based on protocols, contracts and cultural ties between Iran and some other countries. Following the approval of Ministry of Labor and State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training, the center accepts trainees from foreign countries.

Regarding university credits, in the post-diploma courses they are in conformity with the approved credits of State Employment Affairs Organization and Ministry of Higher Education.

Q: Please [illegible] your training staff and equipment of the center.

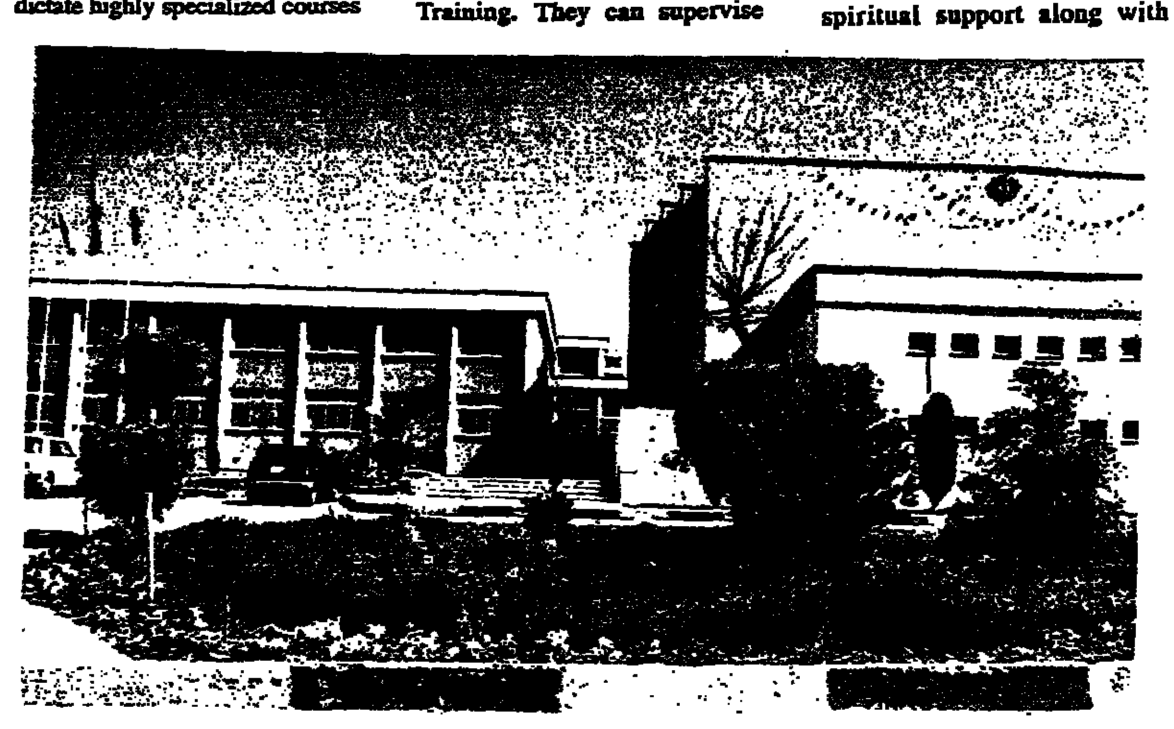
A: The center does not have a uniformed scientific board as in the universities. We hope the training staff will be developed following the receipt of license for the applied MA courses.

In relation to the training equipment, I'd like to say that the center enjoys reasonable facilities for training purposes. Decisions have been made to prepare better and state-of-the-art facilities for the center to offer desirable services to the labor and industrial society of the country.

Q: [illegible]

A: All the trainers working in the center are Iranian nationality. In one case, however, due to requirements of the center some German experts participated in short-term training courses to plan and execute some programs using the latest methods to develop the traditional ones.

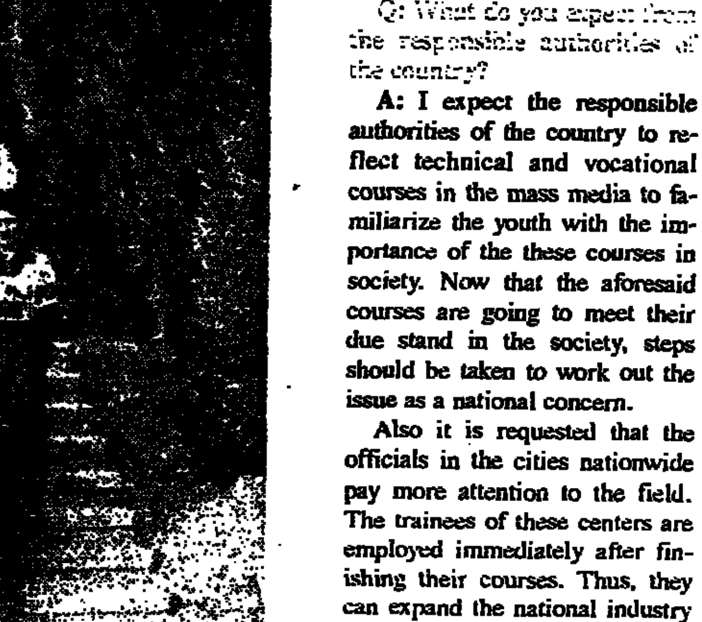
Q: Do you have plans to promote your trainers' technical knowledge in the center?





A: Promotion of human resources have always been our prime concern in the center. The responsible officials in Karaj Instructor Training Center and State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training have made plans in this regard to provide and dictate highly specialized courses for the trainers in the center to enable them. The outline of the plans will be handed over to the State Employment Affairs Organization. We express hope the organization will help us in creating motif and provide expert and experienced manpower foe the technical and vocational centers. These personnel will be relying pillars of the State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training. They can supervise every activity by every trainer in the center. Also they can familiarize the personnel with the latest training trends so that the trainees of the center be easily accepted in technical and vocational markets after they accomplish their courses. They will be helping hands for the country's economic wheels.





Q: What do you expect from the responsible authorities of the country?

A: I expect the responsible authorities of the country to reflect technical and vocational courses in the mass media to familiarize the youth with the importance of the these courses in society. Now that the aforesaid courses are going to meet their due stand in the society, steps should be taken to work out the issue as a national concern.

Also it is requested that the officials in the cities nationwide pay more attention to the field. The trainees of these centers are employed immediately after finishing their courses. Thus, they can expand the national industry by the latest technical knowledge they have achieved in technical and vocational centers in different cities of the country.

Finally the technical and vocational centers await financial and spiritual support along with budget allocation from the responsible authorities.

Q: [illegible] the center?

A: Every year many youths from all over the country receive certificates from state technical and vocational centers nationwide. Considering the skills achieved in the center, these youths have proven to be useful in job opportunities in the factories and workshops.

Considerable cash and credit is consumed for the training of these youths (a part of the expenditure is shouldered by the industries). That is why the industries should enjoy collaboration of these human resources more than ever. The following guidelines may prove to be useful in better utilization of the manpower:

1- The link between job-seeking institutes and technical and vocational training centers should be strengthened.

2- The industrial centers meet their employment needs by these centers.

3- The skilled manpower should be assessed and scrutinized.

In spite of prevalent obstacles in the field, the officials of the State Organization for Technical and Vocational Training have made plans to expand the ties and collaboration between the similar centers in the country.

At present almost 139 centers are busy rendering services to the interested. The rate will stand at 194 following materialization of some projects in near future, including establishing 5 instructor training centers (now active in Karaj) in different parts of the country.

Indonesia's Megawati Seen Cast to Sidelines

JAKARTA — Indonesia's main opposition figure is expected to be sidelined this week as lists of candidates for next year's parliamentary elections are finalized with her name conspicuous by its absence, analysts said.

The government no longer recognizes Megawati Sukarnoputri as an official of the Christian-nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) she once led and she has refused to accept any offer of compromise with a government-backed party rival.

Megawati is the chief symbol of dissent against President Suharto's government.

Indonesia's three recognized political parties, including the PDI, must submit their lists of candidates for the elections on Monday.

Dropping her from the PDI list would be the culmination of a four-month campaign by the government to stifle Megawati's growing popularity and ensure she does not pose a threat to the ruling Golkar Party, analysts and diplomats said.

Megawati, daughter of late founding President Sukarno, has faced near continuous pressure since June when she was ousted from the PDI leadership by the government-backed faction.

Last week, the military said Megawati and her supporters had no right to conduct political activities and that their inauguration of a new party headquarters was unacceptable.

On Saturday, immigration officials at Jakarta's International Airport initially prevented her from leaving on a weekend trip to Singapore but she was later allowed to travel after insisting on being shown written instructions banning her from leaving the country.

There appears little Megawati can do in response except to continue her campaign for political rehabilitation, analysts said.

"The arena of fighting now is not to get the formal position in



Parliament, which she knows she is not getting, but basically to expose that this is unfair and it is not legitimate," said political commentator Arief Budiman.

Golkar, PDI and the Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP) are the only three political entities permitted by the government to contest parliamentary elections.

Megawati has said her ousting is illegal and is challenging it in court but the government has said it no longer recognizes her as a political leader.

Her supporters and other activists held almost daily protest rallies at the PDI headquarters in Jakarta after the ousting. On July 27, police stormed the headquarters, setting off riots in the city in which at least five people died and scores of buildings and vehicles were set ablaze.

A strong government crackdown after the riots, which saw the worst violence in the city for over two decades, has since brought about a forced calm but analysts have said considerable dissatisfaction still prevails.

More than 200 people were taken into custody and several charged with subversion, a crime punishable by death. Megawati has not been detained but has been questioned three times by authorities in connection with the riots.

Mochtar Buchori, a columnist close to Megawati, said her campaign against the government would continue despite the pressure.

"Whether the movement is legal or extralegal, it will still be a movement," he said. "She will still be in politics. She will still exist."

"This is the struggle of the people who have no real power. The struggle is symbolic but it is not really abstract. I think it is useful, but for the future," said Budiman.

Both added however that Megawati's focus appeared restricted to regaining the leadership of the PDI at its next congress in 1998.

In the meantime, dissent against the government appears to have no outlet, one Western diplomat said. "The pressure cooker seems to have been made a little bit tighter, and that's not a good thing," the diplomat said. "There's a general feeling of dissatisfaction that can ignite at any moment."

(Reuter)

Voters Support for Hashimoto Slips to five-Month Low

TOKYO — Public support for the Japanese government, which is expected to call a general election soon, slipped below 40 percent for the first time in five months in September, according to a poll released Sunday.

Approval of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto fell 2.9 percent points from August to 39.8 percent, according to the survey for the Jiji press news agency.

It said the fall reflected discontent at a consumption tax rise next April as well as the impact of a new liberal party.

The lack of a suitable alternative candidate for prime minister was given by 12.6 percent of those asked as the biggest reason for supporting Hashimoto.

(AFP)

World Solar Summit Aims to Harness Sun for Development

HARARE — The first world solar summit, an offshoot of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, opened in Harare Monday with the ambitious aim of harassing the sun's energy for the world's poor.

The summit is expected to produce a world solar program for the years 1996-2005.

But it got off to a lethargic start with most of the heads of state or government invited apparently lacking the energy to attend a preliminary meeting on Saturday.

The Zimbabwean government says 25 heads of state or government are due to attend the two-day summit, but just two of the 14 world solar commissioners arrived in Harare in time for Saturday's meeting of the commission.

They are Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of Pakistan.

The others — including King Juan Carlos of Spain, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and South African President Nelson Mandela — sent representatives.

Delegates from some 80 countries are expected for the summit proper on Monday and Tuesday.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe is chairman of the World Solar Commission (WSC), a creation of the World Solar Summit Process (WSSP) launched in Paris in 1993 by UNESCO, other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The summit aims to win political support for the use of renewable energy sources, promote training and research and demonstrate that

One of the major problems usually associated with solar energy is its high initial cost, but UNESCO says this is because not enough effort has been put into its development.

solar power can transform energy-starved rural areas in developing countries.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) says political backing for the use of sun power could throw an economic lifeline to more than a third of the world's population, as well as prevent destruction of forests for firewood.

"Through solar energy we can reach out to the unreached," said UNESCO Director General Frederico Mayor, referring to the 2.4 billion people in developing countries who live without electricity.

One of the major problems usually associated with solar energy is its high initial cost, but UNESCO says this is because not enough effort has been put into its development.

"Solar technology is feasible, its already there," said UNESCO's science division director Boris Berkovski.

"We don't use it because it's expensive. And it's expensive because no one is interested in mass production."

Mugabe told the meeting of the commission Saturday that it "behoves the international community as a whole to commit itself to the concerted mobilization of adequate financial resources to further promote the implementation of this program."

The Zimbabwean government has come in for criticism from some local media for spending 47 million Zimbabwe dollars (U.S.$4.7 million) on a fleet of luxury cars for the summit.

The Zimbabwean government has come in for criticism from some local media for spending U.S.$4.7 million on a fleet of luxury cars for the summit.

Critics say the money could have been better spent on installing solar power in rural schools and clinics, but the government said the cars were needed anyway for use by ministers and officials after the summit.

UNESCO's mayor said the summit would launch some 300 solar energy projects, from solar-powered cookers for African villages to desalination of the Red Sea for drinking water in Jordan.

Officials, however, have expressed concern that the costs are so high the projects could remain simply good intentions unless international financial institutions were committed to providing backing.

Mayor said he was pleased that oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, traditionally wary of alternative energy sources, were attending the summit and contributing towards its costs.

(AFP)

Water Scarcity Threatens Food Security, Peace

WASHINGTON — Shrinking water resources imperil food security and regional stability, a threat that world leaders ignore at their cost, the Worldwatch Institute warned here recently.

"Political leaders are vastly underestimating the influence of water scarcity on food production, natural systems and regional peace and stability," Worldwatch senior fellow Sandra Postel said.

"As a result, some unpleasant surprises may lie in store."

By 2025, the institute noted in a new study by Postel, three billion people — 40 percent of the world's population — could be living in countries suffering from chronic water shortages.

Worldwatch described the development of new water resources as a costly venture.

Instead, it called for investment in water recycling programs and leak repairs, as well as more rational pricing and water sharing agreements among countries dependent on the same river.

"Worldwide, at least 214 rivers flow through two or more countries, but no enforceable law governs the allocation and use of international waters," according to a Worldwatch statement, issued to mark the release of dividing the waters.

Competition for increasingly scarce supplies of fresh water endangers social and political stability. The report cited water-related tension in the major river basins of the Middle East — the Jordan, the Nile and Tigris-Euprates — and in Asia, notably around the Ganges and the Aral Sea.

It cited in particular the Jordan river basin, which figured in an interim agreement signed by Israel and the Palestinians in 1995.

The accord recognized that Palestinians living on the West Bank, which Israel captured in 1967, had rights to the territory's groundwater.

"But on a per capita basis, Israeli settlers on the West Bank use about four times more water than neighboring Palestinians, and pay about a third as much per cubic meter," according to Worldwatch.

As the amount of water that can be reliably supplied to farmers declines, and as 87 million more people are added to the world's population each year, food security is jeopardized.

(AFP)

Pilot Who Grounded an Airline

PARIS — French pilot Jean-Louis le Barraillec has blocked or delayed 35 flights by the internal state-owned airline Air France Europe since the beginning of the year for security reasons.

And on Thursday the airline was forced to cancel 40 percent of its flights because of a pilots' strike in support of Le Barraillec.

had been looking for an opportunity to sanction the pilot for several months and considers that pilots do not have authority for on board security.

"They think I am a trouble-maker, a nit-picker, but I am a pilot with ethics," said Le Barraillec, adding that "security in French airports is far from being perfect."

After an Air France airbus was hijacked in Algiers at the end of 1994, security became the pilot's obsession. He said security should be stepped up ahead of the 1998 world football championships to be staged in France in 1998.

On Wednesday 40-year-old Le Barraillec, who has 10,000 flying hours to his credit and is a union delegate, ordered a security check on baggage aboard his A-320 airbus as it was about to take off on a flight from Biarritz, south-west France, to Paris.

Airport authorities refused, saying personnel and sniffer dogs were not available. Le Barraillec's reaction was to order the baggage to be unloaded which resulted in his immediate suspension.

Air France Europe management

After an Air France airbus was hijacked in Algiers at the end of 1994, security became the pilot's obsession. He said security should be stepped up ahead of the 1998 world football championships to be staged in France in 1998.

He complained that only five percent of internal flights were given baggage checks by X-ray or sniffer dogs.

Air France Europe management is bringing a court case against the pilots over Thursday's strike which it says cost it 30 million francs ($6 million).

(AFP)

Germans Probe Computer Firms Over Electronic Paper

BONN — Germany's federal prosecutor's office has said it was investigating a number of so-called Internet providers because they were giving computer subscribers access to a radical left-wing electronic newspaper.

A spokesman for the office said the firms were suspected of inciting criminal activity and advertising for a terrorist group because they had failed to block access to the left-wing Internet page "Radikal 154".

Among other things, the electronic site provides instructions on how to sabotage railway lines. Prosecutors consider it to be terrorist propaganda.

On Friday, the page was still available via major Internet providers Compuserve Inc, AOL and T-Online, the on-line service of telecommunications giant Deutsche Telekom.

AOL said in a statement that it was technically impossible to block the server where "Radikal" originated, and that the page was anyway now available via at least 30 other servers and in thousands of electronic copies.

Authorities have been getting increasingly frustrated that radical left- or right-wing material whose distribution is a criminal offence in Germany can be picked up here on the Internet from computers in foreign countries. The server where "Radikal" originates is located in the Netherlands.

Firms giving access to the Internet — a network of interlinked computers providing access to millions of electronic pages — say they are no more responsible for the contents than a telephone company is for the conversations it carries.

On Thursday Germany's office for the protection of juveniles for the first time put an Internet page — produced in North America by leading Nazi apologist Ernst Zuendel — on its list of banned publications.

But officials conceded that the move was likely to have little practical effect, and provider T-Online said it had no intention of blocking the page.

(Reuter)

UN Assembly Opens Amid Row Over Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS — The 51st annual session of the General Assembly opens on Tuesday under a cloud of intrigue, with the United States vowing to block a second term for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The atmosphere will contrast sharply with the harmony prevailing at last year's 50th anniversary celebrations when Boutros-Ghali, whose five-year term expires at the end of this year, was hailed by more than 150 world leaders.

Fewer than 40 world leaders are expected this time, though scores of foreign ministers will, as usual, take part in the three-week general debate scheduled to begin on September 23.

President Bill Clinton addresses the assembly on September 24, followed the same day by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, and in the afternoon by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

The foreign ministers of Germany, China and France are listed to speak the following day.

The assembly this year will be presided over by Ismail Razali, 57, Malaysia's veteran UN envoy, who has shepherded a number of UN bodies through difficult negotiations.

The dispute over who should steer the world body into the 21st century is certain to be a prime topic of bickering and bargaining among the diplomats flocking to New York.

Although Boutros-Ghali has wide support among UN members, the Clinton administration insists it will not relent, even after the Nov. 5 U.S. elections, in its opposition to another term for the 74-year-old Egyptian. It says a new helmsman is needed to reform the world body whose perennial penury is, ironically, due in large measure to the U.S. failure to pay its $1 billion debt on time.

A secretary-general is appointed by the 185-member General Assembly on the recommendation of the 15-nation Security Council whose five permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — each has a veto.

With Boutros-Ghali showing no sign of bowing out, the situation resembles an immovable object about to encounter an irresistible force.

Expected to be a pervasive feature of the session is the crisis sparked by the recent entry of Iraqi troops into Kurdish-inhabited northern Iraq for the first time since the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Though not an issue for the assembly — and one on which the Security Council itself is divided — the repercussions of Iraq's action and the U.S. response in firing cruise missiles is bound to preoccupy the visiting dignitaries.

Another issue of broad concern, though also not on the assembly agenda, will be the year-end deadline for withdrawing the NATO-led peace keeping operation in Bosnia and the need to replace it, probably by a smaller more flexible force.

Lending an upbeat note to the start of the session will be the opening for signature of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty adopted by the assembly earlier this month. Though endorsed by a huge majority, it is uncertain when the treaty might enter into force since that requires ratification by all 44 countries with a nuclear capability, and India, at least, has vowed not to do so in the foreseeable future.

The Middle East peace process is likely to come under sharper scrutiny in view of the slowing of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and a virtual standstill on the Israel-Syria track.

Among the other issues are:

* Cuba — The United States will undergo its annual UN roasting over its economic sanctions against Cuba, on grounds that Washington is trying to impose its legislation on other countries. This line of attack will be sharpened this year because new U.S. curbs directed against Libya and Iran for alleged involvement in terrorism are regarded by many as another attempt to foist American policy on others.
* Taiwan — For the fourth time in as many years, a proposal to discuss UN membership for Taiwan is certain to be smothered in the assembly's steering committee, again preventing its inscription on the agenda. Pressed by about a score of African, Caribbean and Central American countries, the initiative is fought tooth and nail by Beijing, which took over China's UN seat from Taiwan in 1971.
* Council elections — Elections to fill five Security Council seats which fall vacant at the end of the year may provide some suspense. Australia, Sweden and Portugal are all vying for places now filled by Italy and Germany, and India and Japan contesting a seat held by Indonesia. In the Latin American and Caribbean group, Costa Rica and Bolivia are both eyeing a seat being vacated by Honduras. Kenya is the only candidate for an African place occupied by Botswana. (Reuter)

Australia Urged to Cut Immigration Further

SYDNEY — The number of spouse visas granted each year will need to be capped to keep migrant numbers down, an Australian immigration researcher said.

Limits on other family reunion categories may also have to be toughened if visa applications do not drop, Bob Birrell of Monash University's Center for Population and Urban Research said.

Birrell also warned the number of overseas-trained doctors entering Australia would have to be cut, to help local medical students.

His study showed 340 overseas-trained doctors were expected to enter Australia each year, despite attempts to cut an oversupply of medical practitioners.

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock announced in July that the family reunion intake, which includes spouses, fiances, parents and children, would be cut by 13,800 this year to 36,700.

Parents' visas were to be capped at 4,900, fiances at 1,500 and aged dependent and special needs relatives at 1,100.

But despite the cuts, the government cannot stop those who meet the eligibility criteria from entering the country.

Birrell said the fiances' cap could be reached by as early as next month, and overseas posts would have to stop issuing visas until next July.

Even with the caps, the Immigration Department was unlikely to meet its planning level.

"In 1995-96, some 34,000 visas were issued (off-shore and on-shore) just to spouses and fiances — strongly implying that spouse visas as well as fiance visas will also have to be capped," he said.

"Given the large pipeline already in process and further pressure on this category as disappointed fiance applicants marry in order to avoid the fiance restrictions, it may be that this number will only be achieved by introducing a spouse cap."

Demand for spouse entry has increased during the past 12 months, with most applications coming from China and other Asian nations, particularly Vietnam and Hong Kong.

The warnings come after Monash University researchers published a study which found a majority of Australians believe immigration levels are too high, and that new arrivals are flooding the job market.

The research report shows 63 percent of the 1,800 respondents, including 51 percent of migrants, believe immigration levels are excessive.

Birrell, an outspoken critic of immigration policies, has embarrassed the Australian government with a series of studies highlighting what he sees as costly shortcomings and anomalies in Australia's immigration program.

He said last year that with high intakes of low skilled non-English speaking spouses likely to continue, the long-term cost to Australian taxpayers "could be very high." (AFP)

Academics Charge Britain With 42 Rights Violations

LONDON — Britain is guilty of at least 42 violations of international human rights conventions, with a particularly poor record on privacy and assuring citizens equal protection under the law, academics said.

The Human Rights Center at Essex University in eastern England said the breaches will be detailed in a report it is to publish later this week.

But *The Observer* newspaper said they include restriction of freedom of speech by a mediaeval blasphemy law and by an official secrets act, the absence of rights to privacy and to freedom of information and limits on the right to strike.

It also said the report criticizes the fact that religious discrimination is illegal only in Northern Ireland while laws against racial discrimination do not extend to the province.

"Our incoherent and inadequate patchwork of antidiscrimination laws means that people are being legally discriminated against every day in this country — even by government officials — and that they cannot get any redress," said Francesca Klug, a research fellow at the center.

The review looked at Britain's compliance with accords it has signed such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

It says that while Britain is committing no "gross violations", its legal, constitutional and political arrangements fail to protect civil liberties or to ensure effective remedies for people whose liberties are violated.

"Our review reveals a disturbing lack of basic civil and political rights in Britain," said the center's Director, Professor Kevin Boyle.

Britain is unusual in having no written constitution.

Some opposition politicians have called for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law as a first step to giving it one.

This would allow citizens to ask British courts whether the convention had been breached, rather than having to go to the European Human Rights Court at Strasbourg, France, which has ruled against the British government in 42 cases since 1975. (Reuter)

Grieving Parents Mount Crusade on Belgian Judiciary

BRUSSELS — The grieving parents of dead and missing children have taken the lead in a crusade for a purge of Belgium's judiciary after allegations of serious shortcomings in recent investigations into a pedophile network and the murder of a prominent politician in 1991.

The parents say they have a duty to ensure that the same mistakes which allowed known pedophiles to operate with apparent impunity even as police were searching for several missing children, must never happen again.

A total of 500,000 photographs of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, who were abducted last year, sexually abused then left to starve to death, were collected within 24 hours from post offices all over Belgium.

Simultaneously, revelations about the 1991 murder of former Socialist Minister Andre Cools, implicating several of his former colleagues, have reinforced calls for an overhaul of the political system and judiciary and for new laws to close existing loopholes.

On Friday, the Lejeune and Russo parents presided at a meeting in liege of relatives of young people abducted or who have disappeared during the past ten years in Belgium.

"Today, we have the great responsibility of never letting people forget, of refusing to allow ourselves to be fobbed off with promises which are never kept, draft legislation which gathers dust in the drawers and parliamentary debates which lead nowhere," Carinno Russo, the mother of Melissa said.

In a Belgium still split along linguistic lines between French-speaking Walloons and the Flemish, the mobilization in both communities is particularly symbolic.

The impression of unanimity was accentuated by the presence in the front row at the meeting of the sister of Loubna Benaissa, 9 who disappeared in Brussels in 1992. "We form a big family, united in grief, in the questions it asks and in the search for the truth," she said.

The parents have decided to form a foundation to provide help to other parents concerned by similar tragedies and also to press for magistrates to be given the means to investigate suspected pedophiles without hindrance.

King Albert II meanwhile braved critics who accused him of exceeding his prerogatives, to call for an enquiry to expose the shortcomings in the judicial investigation launched after the disappearance of Melissa and Julie and of two other girls later found dead.

Since the discovery and rescue a month ago of Laetitia Delhez and Sabine Dardenne after they too had been kidnapped by pedophiles, the investigation has made great strides.

The focus has now shifted from Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect at whose homes four of the dead girls were found, to a Brussels property agent, Jean-Michel Nihoul whose links with business and political circles were exposed this week by the daily *La Derniere Heure*. (AFP)

Foreign Investors Willing to Spare Money to Curb Child Labor

NEW DELHI, India — Many foreign investors in Europe are willing to set aside a tiny percentage of their investment in India to curb child labor, a social activist said.

"If foreign investors set aside, say, one hundredth of their investment to spread primary education, that would help bring down child labor in India," said Joseph Gathia, chairman of the Child Labor Action Network, an umbrella group of 300 voluntary organizations in India.

Many industrialists and trade promotion bodies in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands contacted by the group said they would be willing to support such a plan, Gathia said in an interview.

Child labor is rampant in India. The federal government estimates that 17 million children toil in illegal factories, making carpets, match sticks and fire crackers. Many of them also work in farms and as domestic servants.

India's laws ban child labor, but they are rarely enforced.

A conference of 110 experts on child labor, that concluded in New Delhi on Sunday, urged India's government to introduce compulsory primary education as an effective strategy to check the entry of children into the work force.

"We want education to be made a fundamental right," Gathia said.

The conference also suggested that the government hand out financial incentives to people who educate girls. The policy also would help curb female infanticide, which is prevalent in many parts of the country, he said. (AP)

Education, Crime and AIDS Top Concerns of Americans

WASHINGTON — The decline of the U.S. educational system, the growth of crime and the spread of AIDS tops the concerns of Americans, according to a poll.

The survey of 4,000 people of voting age found that 62 percent said the decline of the educational system "worries them a great deal," while 61 percent said crime and 62 percent said AIDS also worried them.

Also among top concerns were the state of the social welfare system (programs designed to help the poor) and the use of illegal drugs.

Asked to rate the extent to which various issues concerned them, only 12 percent said they were concerned the Whitewater investigation would turn up serious accusations against President Bill Clinton.

Only 18 percent said they were worried a great deal that communists would regain power in Russia. The situation in Bosnia was also ranked low on the list of U.S. concerns. (AFP)

